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Near East & South Asia

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Iraq

A UN inspection team led by UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus inspected "all floors" of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and its annexes on 28 and 29 July "without finding any documents or taking any pieces of paper out of the building to check," according to a Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by INA. The team agreed not to inspect the offices of the agriculture minister and his two under secretaries. The spokesman said the details of the UN inspection have been "fully documented." Meanwhile, Baghdad radio reported "spontaneous, massive, and mammoth" demonstrations throughout Baghdad and nationwide in which crowds shouted slogans denouncing President Bush, pledging allegiance to Saddam, and protesting the economic embargo.

Israel

Prime Minister Rabin said the government will continue to maintain the "security zone" in southern Lebanon as well as sustain the South Lebanese Army, Tel Aviv radio reported. Speaking during his first tour of the northern border as prime minister, Rabin said was "not" his "impression" that Syria and Lebanon were doing enough to curb Hizballah activity in south Lebanon, according to the radio.

Tunisia

The trial of 108 persons involved in the "Islamist Terrorist Network" connected with the Ennadha movement resumed in Tunis on 27 July, MAP reported. The group members are accused of planning a coup. Ennadha movement acting leader Habib Ellouz has denied any planned attempt to overthrow the government or assassinate President Ben Ali, London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported.

Nepal

Agriculture Minister Shailaja Acharya was "forced" to resign amid allegations of corruption, AFP reported. Opposition figures had accused Acharya—who is also the niece of President Koirala—of accepting kickbacks in the purchase of 15,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer from Bangladesh, according to the press agency. President Koirala has selected Ram Chandra Poudel, a former minister of local development, as Acharya's replacement.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt Denies Mediating Golan Heights Issue

NC2707160692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa denied that Egypt is mediating between Syria and Israel to reach a solution on the Golan Heights issue. In a statement published by AL-ITTIHAD newspaper in Abu Dhabi today, he said that Egypt has not proposed a solution to the Golan issue, because the solution is known, which is withdrawal.

He pointed out that the talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during his recent visit to Cairo focused on, from the standpoint of principle and framework, the need for immediate action regarding negotiations, initiatives, and readiness for withdrawal.

Musa affirmed that President Husni Mubarak insisted on the need for movement on the Golan Heights issue. He also affirmed that what is needed is not a settlement in stages or a partial settlement, rather a comprehensive one.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz affirmed, in a similar statement published by the paper, that southern Lebanon is an independent issue that can be dealt with within the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 425. Implementing this resolution does not necessitate holding peace talks with Israel but total and immediate unconditional Israeli withdrawal.

The Lebanese minister said it would be a great mistake to discuss the Lebanese issue within the framework of Resolutions 242 and 338. He said Lebanon is committed to a comprehensive peace and solution, pointing out that the Arab parties are in agreement on this issue and maintain that there either will be comprehensive peace or none at all.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO To Participate in 10 Aug Washington Talks

LD2807181292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, stated that he regards the new Rabin-led Israeli Government's policy as obscure and needing clarification, despite the fact that European countries and the United States welcomed this government's orientation. He added that we need to have a perception of the Israeli position regarding the final status of the occupied territories, which will require an in-depth discussion of the question of settlements, Jerusalem, and the authorities of the transitional Palestinian government.

Dr. 'Abd al-Shafi also announced the PLO's agreement to participate in the next round of bilateral talks, due to be held in Washington on 10 August.

'Arafat Discusses Peace Talks, Regional Issues

NC2807211192 London MBC Television in Arabic 1835 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by MBC correspondent 'Irfan Nizam-al-Din at PLO headquarters in Tunis; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Nizam-al-Din] President Yasir 'Arafat. We welcome you at the MBC center [as heard]. I believe this is your first interview following your successful surgery. First, I would like to ask you to tell us about your health. ['Arafat] I thank God. I believe in the Koranic verse that states: If I become ill, He will cure me.

[Nizam-al-Din] I will come back to the subject of your health later, but let us begin with the health of the cause. Is there anything new on the peace talks following U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour?

['Arafat] This is the important thing, not my health. The most important thing is the health of the people, the health of the cause, the health of the homeland, and the health of holy Jerusalem. These are the basic things. We are only recruits for martyrdom.

Baker's recent visit was important, because it took place after the recent change in Israel. The Israeli people did not only vote for the Labor Party; they voted for peace. They voted against Shamir's policy, which called for war and the continuation of repression and starvation and included blockading the Palestinian people, killing children and women, and waging aggression on Islamic and Christian holy places.

The goal of Secretary Baker's visit was to reactivate the peace process. Our delegation that met with Baker in Jerusalem and my Arab brothers who met with him during his recent visit said that he stated that the United States still wants a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem. This is significant, because some parties are talking about reaching separate agreements. Others are even talking about reaching agreements at the expense of other Arab parties. Baker stated that the solution must be comprehensive.

Baker also stressed the need to resume the talks. It was agreed that the talks will resume next month, God willing, either on 10 or 15 August.

[Nizam-al-Din] In Washington or Rome?

['Arafat] In Washington. It was agreed that they would resume in Washington, because transferring the venue was basically an Israeli demand. Shamir did not want to be exposed to U.S. public opinion through his intransigence and rejection of all UN resolutions, as well as his rejection of peace, logic, and the Geneva convention.

[Nizam-al-Din] Will the composition of the Palestinian delegation be changed? Have the Americans held direct or indirect contacts with you regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the issues that are going to be discussed?

[Arafat] First of all, there is no change in the composition of the delegation; it will remain the same. It will continue to discuss the issues we discussed in the past. Our outlook has not changed. The Israelis might change their outlook. There is an interim solution that we said must last six months. The invitation letter from the cosponsors says it will last for two years. We will agree on the interim period, which is the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority [preceding four words in English]. This is exactly what is written in the letter of guarantees and in the invitation. The word authority [preceding word in English] is written. We wanted them to use the word sovereignty [preceding word in English], but they used the authority [preceding word in English], which is general but means authority over territory.

[Nizam-al-Din] How can this authority be implemented? [Arafat] On what principle is the peace process based? It is based on President Bush's five-point initiative: land for peace; implementing UN Security Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for a withdrawal from occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, above all Jerusalem; the political legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with international legality; and security for everyone in the region.

Does this not remind us of the initiative King Fahd submitted when he was crown prince? He submitted this view on resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue at the Fes Arab summit conference. The Arab summit adopted this initiative, announced by His Majesty King Fahd when he was crown prince. Do you remember this? I must remind you that he was the first to call for establishing a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. This came to be one of the Arab nation's documents.

[Nizam-al-Din] And a consensus was reached.

[Arafat] Right, the Arab consensus.

[Nizam-al-din] Do you believe that if these steps are carried out in the coming stage, a Palestinian state will be established?

[Arafat] This is what is supposed to happen. According to what was written in the invitation, we agreed that after a transitional period—the length of which is being debated, as I said we are talking about six months, they are talking about two years—we will reach an agreement on it. Negotiations over the final solution will begin in the third year. They are saying the third year. The final solution involves a state. Palestinian self-determination means an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, exactly as stated in King Fahd's initiative that the Arab summit approved. But we must add another thing. I want to remind you that after we left Beirut in 1982 we held a Palestine National Council [PNC] meeting in 1983, where the PNC adopted a

resolution, reiterated by all subsequent PNC sessions, pertaining to the establishment of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation. This confederation is to be based on the free and voluntary choice of the two people involved.

[Nizam-al-Din] How can this be actually implemented?

[Arafat] A resolution by the highest-ranking Palestinian legislative body has been in effect since 1983. Certainly, the Jordanian brothers have the right to give their opinion frankly and clearly. As you remember, King Husayn and I reached an agreement on this in 1985. The agreement was delayed due to reasons out of our control. I believe that this is one of the things to which we referred at the session. I have most certainly been elected to implement the PNC resolutions.

[Nizam-al-Din] Brother Abu-'Ammar: Now that you have brought up the Jerusalem issue, let us discuss the initiative announced by the custodian of the two holy mosques, which has received broad support from the Palestinian people and leadership [reference to King Fahd's contribution to renovate the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem].

[Arafat] And the PLO Central Council.

[Nizam-al-Din] And the PLO Central Council.

[Arafat] The PLO Central Council mentioned it. You know, I thanked all those who contributed to this enterprise, particularly in my message to His Majesty King Fahd. The Palestinian people will not forget this act, I assure you. I know that more is involved than he said. I know other things by my own methods. I thank him in advance. I know that he will not limit his contribution to the sum he announced. He is willing to contribute the entire cost of the renovation of both the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque, which was burned by a fire, and the blessed Dome of the Rock, and other religious sites attached to these two mosques. The Palestinian leadership was clear on this matter. On behalf of the Palestinian leadership, I thanked all those who contributed, particularly His Majesty King Fahd.

[Nizam-al-Din] Of course, you referred to the issue of Jerusalem and the Palestinian issue as a whole.

[Arafat] If we are going to discuss this issue, I want to say many things. I hope it will be understood that what I am saying comes straight from my heart. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the only Arab country that has fulfilled its commitments to us and to other Arab countries in connection with the aid that the Baghdad summit stated must be paid to the confrontation states. Saudi Arabia was never slow in fulfilling its commitments. Whenever we have been in difficulty, we, I used to send.... [changes thought] [addressing aide] How many times, Basil, did you go and get me checks?

[Basil] Four times.

[Arafat] Is that right? Actually you went and brought them to me from His Majesty King Fahd both when he was the king's deputy and crown prince and after he assumed power in the Kingdom.

I take pride in the good and fraternal relations we share. It is true that a cloud has marred these relations recently. Problems are natural in all households, but relatives will see each other through the tough times.

Speaking about that support, I would like to tell you a story about me and His Majesty King Fahd: When Israel destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor, King Fahd sent me a message—he was crown prince at the time—telling me that the Kingdom and His Majesty King Khalid decided to give Iraq \$200 million as compensation for the destroyed reactor. I conveyed that message to Baghdad through a personal envoy. I then contacted Baghdad. That was when the Iraqi reactor was hit, which shows the genuine nature of Arab relations. This genuineness will certainly prevail and overcome whatever crises we go through. What is between my father's sons and my cousins is something special. [old Arab saying]

[Nazam al-Din] The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait caused a severe wound. There is a kind of criticism or reproach, a complaint let's say, that despite these fraternal relations, President Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO leadership did not adopt a clear-cut, firm, and frank position condemning the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. This was particularly true, because the matter involved a Palestinian people and leadership suffering at the hands of another's occupation.

['Arafat] We never approved of the occupation. Do not forget that the Palestinian people hurt more than anyone by the Gulf crisis. The Palestinian community in Kuwait was the richest one outside the occupied territories. The losses of this community during the crisis amounted to \$12.6 billion. We had about 430,000 Palestinians working in Kuwait; now less than 40,000 are there. Is this not a calamity? These people helped their relatives in the occupied territories. When has such a loss occurred? I would like to say that since the first moment... [sentence left incomplete; 'Arafat asks one of his aides to give him a copy of the Palestinian initiative on the Gulf crisis]. We issued our initiative on 30 August 1990. The first article of the initiative calls for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. I will give you a copy of the initiative.

[Nazam al-Din] How can this schism be healed? As some self-criticism, let us say...

['Arafat, interrupting] I would like to say something: I am sure that King Fahd has a big enough heart to forget the entire Gulf crisis and heal all the schisms involved. This is my hope, particularly because we Palestinians need Arab support now more than ever; we are up against a strong Israeli rival and all its allies. I ask King Fahd: Will you leave the Palestinians to face the bogeyman alone? We need an Arab hand, Arab support, and a united Arab political position. ['Arafat's aide hands him a copy of the Palestinian initiative] Here it is.

[Nazam al-Din] The withdrawal of the Iraqi military troops from Kuwait.

['Arafat] The first article. I say this because we never changed this position. We gave everyone a copy of this

initiative. Does the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks not need support from its brothers in the Gulf, Egypt, Maghreb, Iraq, and Syria? We in the Arab nation and our friends can barely take anything from the Israeli bogeyman; therefore, I appeal to His Majesty King Fahd, out of faith to our fraternal and long-standing relations, not to let the Palestinian negotiators alone.

[Nizam al-Din] There is another question. The problem also damaged relations among the people. Some expect you to adopt a position toward brothers in the Gulf.

['Arafat] We talk as one family. We all expect each other to bury the hatchet. I say that His Majesty King Fahd has a religious, political, and pan-Arab responsibility. He is the only one capable of doing it. I am sure he is capable of shouldering this responsibility, which is not the first time he has undertaken that role. I appeal to him, not in my name alone, but in the name of every Palestinian child, woman, and man and in the name of every Arab woman and man. I am sure that this appeal will find its way to his heart. I know him better than you do.

[Nizam al-Din] God willing. You have a long-standing friendship.

['Arafat] A real friendship and fraternity in which I take pride.

[Nizam al-Din] Let us go back to the issue of Jerusalem. It seems that Jerusalem is still the major obstacle in the peace process. How can a way out be found in light of Rabin's statement that Jerusalem will remain united and under Israeli control?

['Arafat] Let us go back to King Fahd's initiative. He was the first one to say that Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine. There is also Bush's initiative, which is similar; it talks about land for peace and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which mean a withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, primarily Jerusalem. Is holy Jerusalem not occupied?

The issues of religious rituals can be resolved, and we should resolve them. It is the Jews' right to come and practice their religious rituals in Jerusalem as much as it is the right of Muslims and Christians to practice their rituals. We can find solutions to the religious aspects. When we talk about the withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, we find that holy Jerusalem was occupied in 1967. We can resolve anything if we have good will. If they want a just peace, it must be based on international legitimacy, resolutions, and President Bush's initiative.

[Nizam al-Din] Do you believe that Rabin supports peace? Can anything be done?

['Arafat] I will bring Rabin to account only for his campaign promises; therefore, I am waiting to see what he will do with his program. Will he leave his program behind and pursue Shamir's policy?

[Nizam al-Din] What about the issue of settlements?

['Arafat] I would like to say something. He [Rabin] admitted that some of the settlements are illegitimate.

This is the first step. We say that they are all illegitimate; the United States says they are all illegitimate. Russia, the other sponsor of the conference, says they are illegitimate; the European countries, China, India, Japan, and all the nations that took part in the multilaterals say that the settlements are illegitimate. I believe the point is how to draw up a gradual plan on the withdrawal and settlements that all will agree to after a dialogue.

[Nizam-al-Din] Are you willing to meet with Rabin if you are invited to do so?

[Arafat] I was even willing to meet with Shamir. Is peace more difficult than war? Anyone can decide to wage war; only a few can decide to reach peace. I reached out to Shamir; I am now reaching out to Rabin too. But will Rabin be like De Gaulle and make peace with me just like de Gaulle made peace with the Algerians? Forget about De Gaulle and look at de Klerk, who released Nelson Mandela from prison and sat face-to-face with him; they held a dialogue and a referendum together. The referendum's outcome favored Mandela and an end to racial discrimination. If this is happening in South Africa, how can people still talk about a Greater Israel?

Do you know what this is? This is the 10 agoras [an Israeli coin] which has the map of Israel on it.

[Nizam-al-Din] It is not a well-defined map, of course.
[Arafat] Here is a bigger coin; this is magnified. I did not magnify it; the NEW JOURNAL of 19 February 1989 magnified it. This is a pro-Zionist American magazine talking about a Greater Israel, which includes all of Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine; half of Syria; one-third of Saudi Arabia; two-thirds of Iraq, and half of Siam.

If they want to keep this mentality that Israel stretches from the Nile to the Euphrates, there will be no peace. In response to questions during his visit to Cairo, Rabin said it is not logical to apply the Torah.

[Nizam-al-Din] Is this an indication that they are not going to follow the theory of a Greater Israel?

[Arafat] We will wait and see. Shamir admitted that this theory was no longer valid. Latif Duri, chairman of the dialogue committee and a prominent Israeli figure, said that Shamir was brought down by the intifadah. I would add wise political action to the intifadah. After losing the elections, Shamir said the Israeli people were tired and do not want to establish a Greater Israel.

[Nizam-al-Din] There are fears that the current moves will mark the beginning of a split among the Palestinians, namely between the Palestinians living in the occupied territory and the Palestinians of the diaspora.

[Arafat] This delegation has been appointed by the Palestinian people. It represents all the Palestinians. I have total confidence in this delegation. As president of the state of Palestine and as PLO chairman, I have full confidence in this delegation, which represents the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories. One indication of how the delegation represents all Palestinians is to look at the multilateral talks held in December.

The chairman of the Palestinian delegation in the refugee committee was the assistant to brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], and the chairman of the economic development committee was Dr. Yusuf al-Sayigh, a former chairman of the Palestinian National Fund and a PLO Executive Committee member for nine years.

[Nizam-al-Din] How do you explain, then, the recent clashes between Fatah and Hamas and fears that more fighting is on the horizon?

[Arafat] I want to tell you something: I issued an appeal, contacted several sides, and asked groups and personalities from our lands occupied in 1948 and from my brothers in the West Bank to go to Gaza. A committee was formed, thank God. A statement was issued. This committee is overseeing this subject in order to end such problems. At the same time, I issued an appeal for unity. Truly, God loves those who fight in his cause in battle array, as if they were a solid cemented structure. [Koranic verse].

Taking this as a base, I consider Fatah to be like Hamas, like the Popular Front, like the Democratic Front, like the Arab Front, like the Palestine Front, like the Struggle Front. They are all part of the PLO, whether they are in Gaza, the West Bank, or abroad. Such things often happen among members of the same household. Thank God, we have been able to put an end to the problem.

[Nizam-al-Din] There are proposals to stop the intifadah and cancel the boycott of Israel in return for a freeze on Israeli settlement activity. What is the PLO's view on these proposals?

[Arafat] The settlements are impermissible. I call for implementing Bush's initiative. At least, let us reach an agreement on a timetable, which is not asking too much. I do not say we have to implement all the UN resolutions. I am talking about President Bush's initiative on the basis of which the entire peace process took off. We made concessions. At the beginning, they said that no PLO officials could participate in the talks. We said that any Palestinian can represent the whole Palestinian people. At the last moment, they said that they should not be from Jerusalem. By God, brother Nizam, have you seen any other place in the world where one party appoints the delegation with which it will negotiate? Has this ever happened? No, never. Not during World War II, World War I, or any other war for that matter. We made concessions for the sake of peace, and we accepted some difficult conditions. But it must also be understood that we are not weak. Neither Palestine nor the Arab nation is weak. Let us begin to implement Bush's initiative on the Palestinians, southern Lebanon, and the Golan. If we can establish a peace based on this, we can resolve all other issues. It must be a just peace, however.

[Nizam al-Din] There is talk about elections and preparations for them in the occupied territories. What is your assessment of this subject?

[Arafat] It must be understood that we are not ready to hold local or municipal elections. We want political, legislative elections for our people inside the occupied

land. These elections will produce an interim government, an interim and transitional government. Through this government, we can later embark on the second and final stage. This is a question Rabin and the peace conference cosponsors have not yet answered. When will these elections be held? Based on what law will they be held? We have experienced, specialized committees that have discussed this issue. Based on what law? Israeli law? This is unacceptable. The Ottoman, British, Jordanian, Egyptian, Syrian laws? Occupied Palestinian territories can be divided into three parts: al-Himmah used to be under Syrian administration; the West Bank was under Jordanian administration; and Gaza was under Egyptian administration. A decision must be reached on this matter. We will submit all the studies we have on this matter with total courage, logic, and clarity. This was made clear, in a certain form but not in full detail, in the plan we submitted at the start of the negotiations. Regrettably, we and you, brother Nizam, discovered that Shamir did not want to negotiate, as he admitted; he wanted 10 years of procrastination.

[Nizam al-Din] Can we understand from this, Mr. president, that you oppose the elections that they are speaking of now? Local elections...

[Arafat, interrupting] We oppose what they say about local elections. Local elections are not their concern. Local elections fall within the jurisdiction of the future government. It will have the right to hold municipal and local elections wherever it wants. What must be held are political elections, just as in Namibia. All right, Namibia was a U.S. plan that was approved by the whole world. Why should one thing be done in Namibia and another in Palestine? Does international legitimacy have one or two faces? Let them treat me as they treated Namibia.

[Nizam al-Din] At the very least.

[Arafat] At the very least.

[Nizam al-Din] Mr. president, do you see yourself as the first president of the state of Palestine on Palestine's liberated land?

[Arafat] Look, I am sure of one thing: It is not important after that who will be there. I am sure that somewhere there is a Palestinian child—a Palestinian bud, an Arab child or bud—who will plant the flag of Palestine, the flag of the Arab nation, over the Jerusalem Walls, minarets, and churches. Jerusalem is the first of the two Qiblas and the third of the two holy mosques, the place where Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be on him, was transported on his night journey and the cradle of Christ, may God's peace be with him. Believe me, this vision has never left me.

I swear by God, Nizam, by He who brought us together today, on board the plane I remembered two things only. When the plane was about to crash [preceding word in English] and I was between heaven and earth, I remembered this picture that hangs behind my desk. It is a picture of the first of the two Qiblas and the third of the two holy mosques. I remembered my brother martyrs and said: Wait for me Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. My

brothers who were with me during the incident heard me say it. I remembered my brother martyrs.

[Nizam al-Din] Certainly, the plane story....

[Arafat, interrupting] I am telling you, I swear to God, that is all I remembered. I came out alive, which means that God will grant me my wish of worshipping there again....

[Nizam al-Din] God willing.

[Arafat] With His Majesty King Fahd. I will worship with the whole Arab nation, with all Muslims, with all Christians, with all believing Jews. Of the people of Moses there is a section who guide and do justice in the light of truth. [Koranic verse] You know that there are two Jewish sects that do not recognize the state of Israel.

[Nizam al-Din] The Samaritans.

[Arafat] And Neturie Karta. We have members of these sects as members of our delegation in Washington, part of the advisory delegation.

[Nizam al-Din] Brother Abu-'Ammar: You mentioned your plane crash. There must be certain secrets, impressions, and feelings related to the issue that have not been revealed fully. How did the accident take place?

[Arafat] We were supposed to land in (al-Kafra) to refuel and then continue the flight. It was a two-engine aircraft. When we approached the town, I looked down and saw a sandstorm. I went to the cockpit and asked the pilot about it. He said the sandstorm had just started. I asked him to hurry up and land. The control tower told him he could land if visibility was 300 meters. As I was talking to him, the tower said visibility was 200 meters and asked him if he could land. In a moment the tower said visibility was 100 meters and asked if he could land. Then the tower said visibility was zero and that he should not land. I asked him if he could head for the nearest airport. He said the nearest airport was al-Sarrah. I asked him if there was a sandstorm there. He asked and said no. We asked to land al-Sarrah airport, and I heard them answer. We headed for al-Sarrah only to find that the sandstorm had arrived before we did. It was sunset. Night started to fall, and we lost visibility completely. We had no fuel to continue. The captain and his copilot, God rest their souls, decided to try an emergency landing. You noticed that the plane crashed head on. If it had landed on its belly, it could have hit the rocks; the rocks were only 300 meters away. It could have been a catastrophe.

[Nizam al-Din] You found yourself outside the plane?

[Arafat] They sat me and the deputy naval commander down near the tail of the plane. When the plane split in two, I got out and began calling for everyone. [To an aid, he says:] Was it not so Rawwas? I called you one by one. We heard moaning. We did not know how many people were in front. I called the copilot and his three brothers. We managed to carry three. We failed to carry the copilot, who passed away at midnight, God rest his soul.

As he was dying, I heard him say: Abu-'Ammar, do not forget Palestine. I said: God willing, I will pray for you if I reach Palestine.

The hyenas were all around us; they were attracted by the smell of blood. I asked my brothers not to hit the hyenas, because hyenas get furious if they are hit. It is good that I remembered these things.

Afterward, I opened the baggage cabin at the tail end of the plane and immediately turned it into a small clinic where I moved the wounded. We then started reading the Koran. We prayed all night and until dawn. They came and got us the next day.

I want to tell you something: When they came to extract the three martyrs, they found three swallows there. When they came back the next to collect the plane wreckage, they found the three swallows dead. May God be glorified.

[Nizam-al-Din] Did you ever lose hope?

['Arafat] I remember two things. As I told you, I remembered my brothers, the martyrs, while I was between the sky and ground. And I remember this: When I emerged alive the next day, I told them: O youths, God willing, we will say the morning prayers while we are in this ordeal. And we delivered him and Lut to the land that we have blessed for the nations. [Koranic verse]

[Nizam-al-Din] Naturally, after the incident, you had the tumor or the swelling.

['Arafat] The Libyan doctors and the Egyptian medical team that President Mubarak sent me took x-rays. They told me the x-rays are all right but that additional X-rays would be required in six weeks. They said that some tiny veins may have been damaged, which is actually what happened.

[Nizam-al-Din] They caused numbness.

['Arafat] Not numbness. Two bags of blood between the skull and the scalp.

[Nizam-al-Din] Was it hard to agree to surrender your head to the surgeon's scalpel?

['Arafat] I am a believer. If I become ill, He will cure me. When someone is a believer, he accepts martyrdom. By God, I envy the martyrs. Not everyone can become a martyr. He chooses martyrs among you. [Koranic verse] Look at the magnificence of this Koranic verse. Not everyone can be a martyr. Look at Khalid Bin-al-Walid [prominent military commander during early Islamic conquests] He said: I am dying on my mattress like the camels die. Let not the eyes of the cowards sleep.

I am not interested in being elected. Perhaps they will do to me what the English did to Churchill. After the war, they did not elect him. The only thing I am interested in is that the Palestinian Arab flag, the flag of the Arab nation, fly there.

[Nizam-al-Din] God willing.

['Arafat] God willing.

[Nizam-al-Din] Thank you.

Algeria

Abdesselam Views Corruption, Economy, Stability

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["First Part" of news conference held by Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam with national and international correspondents in Algiers on 27 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Abdesselam] We seek refuge in God from the accursed Satan. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Prayers and peace be upon the messenger of God.

Ladies and gentlemen: First I would like to apologize for being late for this appointment. This was because the measures required under the conditions we are experiencing made us a little later than the time we had arranged to meet. I would like to apologize to you for the delay. [passage omitted]

As you know, I made a statement on 23 July and presented the broad outlines of the policies that the government I lead intends to pursue in the future. I have presented these broad outlines to the Higher State Council. Today, at this meeting, I will try to answer your questions and those of the public.

We are all aware of the circumstances under which the new government was formed—difficult circumstances. I would like to take this opportunity to pray for the soul of the struggler and martyr, the late Mohamed Boudiaf. [passage omitted]

As you know, I have already stated that the government's work comes under the broad outlines that have been made public by the Higher State Council since its formation and have been reaffirmed since the death of the late Mohamed Boudiaf by the gentleman who succeeded him, brother Ali Kafi.

Everyone is aware of the nature of the phase our country is now going through; it is a phase of a crisis. The crisis is not an ordinary one. We can say, particularly after studying some information pertaining to national life, that the crisis our country is experiencing is one of destiny; that is, a crisis in which our country's existence—as a nation and as a state—hangs in the balance.

The thing the Algerian people are expecting from us under current circumstances is to surmount the crisis; to surmount the crisis and to eliminate some of the crisis phenomena. I think that every Algerian citizen is hoping that the government will guarantee stability and security in his daily life. I also think that every Algerian citizen is hoping the state will regain its prestige because the state's prestige is the real guarantee for the very existence of every citizen inside his country.

Furthermore, we also believe that every Algerian citizen hopes that for the state to regain its prestige it must first regain its own credibility; that is, mutual confidence

between the state and the citizen must return. In precise words—as our people would put it—confidence between the ruler and the ruled must be restored.

One should not say that our economy is in a state of collapse but rather in a state of instability; it is as if blows have been dealt to its vital and fundamental aspects. The one thing that causes wonder—and it could be attributed to the characteristics of the Algerian people—is the fact that despite all the blows that have been dealt to our country and our economy, one ought to wonder why the country is somehow still standing and still hanging on despite all the problems that have been facing us. Therefore, no one should expect this government to resolve all the problems in a short time as if it owns Moses' staff, or that we will be able to find solutions to all our problems in a short time. There is no miracle in that. No one has Solomon's ring to resolve all of our country's problems given everything that has happened in the past. [last two sentences in French]

The government, which I have the honor to lead, does not want to make the citizens think that it will resolve everything. The one thing we aspire to achieve is to find some solutions, even partial solutions, to some of the difficult problems the citizens have been complaining about in particular, and to provide the conditions that would lead us to the solutions that might enable us to surmount the crisis in the future. [passage omitted]

Those were the points I wanted to raise in my brief introduction before the news conference. I hope that all of you will now ask your questions in an orderly manner so that everyone will have the opportunity to ask his question and no one will have exclusive use of the microphone. May I ask each one of you to introduce yourself and whatever paper, magazine, or institution you represent before asking your questions. Thank you.

[Abdelouahab] Prime Minister, this is Jakkoua Abdelouahab of the newspaper LE MATIN. The first question: What is the fate of the reforms? Will there be a retreat from them or are there going to be other measures to complete them? The second question: The former government approved the idea of privatizing some public sector companies. What is your stand on this issue?

[Abdesselam, in French] Are you talking about privatization?

[Abdelouahab] Yes, the privatization of some units in the public sector. Is your government going to continue implementing Ghazali's program? Thank you.

[Abdesselam] Thank you. With regard to reforms, in fact we have been involved in reforms for about 10 years. Probably the period we are living through now is a period for reforms. It is because reforms are viewed from two angles. The first is the theoretical angle. The second is the practical angle—what has actually happened in the implementation of these reforms? I have no preconceived stand. We look at the reforms from the angle of the national interest, from the angle of the interest of

society, and from the angle of the interest of the economy. We confirm reform that appears to be of benefit. We somehow try to adjust reform that appears to be of no benefit. Thus, there is a kind of reexamination of some things and confirmation of other things. What is important is that we proceed without destabilizing the system that is the basis of the activity of the country.

Second, with regard to some companies, as you said I think we should proceed from the principle that there is no need to privatize or sell some of the companies of the public sector. This problem should not start from an ideological principle. At the present time we should proceed from the principle of what benefits the public. Second [as heard], the thing we must observe is that the companies that belong to the public sector suffered from many problems. On many occasions, these problems were not self-created but were imposed from outside, whether from the state or the general environment in which these companies were living. Today we believe that the main aim is to see how we can rehabilitate these companies so they can operate on the basis of economic efficiency. [preceding sentence repeated in French]

At that time, if they succeed, good luck to them. If they fail, they will suffer the penalty of failure.

So in the final analysis we will try to revive those institutions. My government and I, personally, will not make it easy for those people who would like to take advantage of the current problems to gain the things the state and the Algerian nation have built through wide sacrifice. I will not make it easy for the vultures. We must do everything to put the state enterprises right again before we can effectively judge them. [last two sentences in French] We are sorry that such an operation was not carried out in previous years. Afterward, we will respect the rules of economics as far as competition is concerned. Those enterprises that are deemed successful will expand and progress, and those that are not will stay behind or completely vanish.

No, you [addressing Abdelouahab] have already asked a question. You are only allowed one question, let others ask the next one. [last sentence in French]

[Massoudi, in French] I am Massoudi from the daily AL-WATAN. In your first address, carried on television and radio, you talked about the war against corruption and prescribed economic austerity. Could you elaborate on these two points, and what are the principal points of the social-economic program and the plan of action that you submitted to the Higher State Council? I have a second question if I may: The Algerian Bank has changed its governor even though the former governor did not complete his legal term. Does this mean a change in the country's monetary policies and a modification in the Algerian Bank's attributions or not? Thank you.

[Abdesselam, in French] Well as far as the... [pauses] Does it matter if I repeat what I have to say in another language? If that is what you want I will oblige. [last two sentences in Arabic] As far as corruption is concerned—

and you have to excuse the language I am going to use—we must root out this evil, we must overcome this situation, and we must overcome the quagmire of corruption.

[Reverts to Arabic] As far as corruption is concerned, everybody who has expressed an opinion has agreed that fighting corruption is a must. In my statement I asserted that it takes two to make corruption. One gives the bribe and another accepts it. Most of the time, however, when we talk about corruption we only mean those who take bribes; we tend to forget about the people who give bribes. In some cases the people who are making the noise are those very people who have been paying bribes. Thus, when we deal with bribery we must remember both parties.

Corruption has become partially present in the body of the nation. I think it will be rather difficult to fight and beat corruption everywhere. We must choose where we strike at it. We must strike at corruption in sensitive and important places. The problem will nevertheless remain how to seek out and identify corruption. If corruption was something that could be seen it would be easy to deal with. The problem is that everybody talks about it but no one can tell you exactly where it is. The problem remains that we must find a formula to enable us to put our hands on something that might epitomize corruption.

Of course there is the role that can be played by the security services, whose duty is to know everything that violates the law of the land. As far as this aspect is concerned, we can say that any file with evidence attached to it will be sent to the court because we are now in a country that adheres to the principle of the rule of law. Therefore, everything ought to be handled in accordance with the rules of law.

As far as my stance on this issue is concerned, I think we must fight every case of bribery that comes to light at this moment. I consider myself more responsible than anyone as long as I am the head of the government. So if I know of someone, I will not let him go. This does not mean that I will be after everyone or no one. Everything should be handled in a clear manner. People who talk about corruption or know about cases of corruption should report their evidence in the correct manner so that no one is unjustly accused. The members of this government and of the previous government are aware that we have been receiving many anonymous letters. Rumors are rampant. [passage omitted]

So we said: Let us adopt another method. I said we should introduce control over wealth [last three words in French], but in an organized manner and with the participation of the public, the people. At that time [1979], I suggested the creation of committees within a legal framework, an organized framework. These committees would be set up to control wealth at the level of the administrative districts, or even the municipalities; and in the large municipalities at the level of quarters. These committees would have included representatives

of state bodies, such as the judiciary the security services—including the police, the gendarmerie, and other services—and anybody in possession of information, the administration for example; in addition to the organizations that then represented the masses and public opinion, such as the party [National Liberation Front], the workers, the peasant farmers, youth, women, and so on, as well as the religious corps. In every administrative district or municipality, the committees would be in charge of inquiries and anyone who knew something would come forward. Anyone who knew something about a colleague, a neighbor, or somebody in his area who earned their wealth illegally and illicitly should come forward, but in an organized framework, and they would have to confront the people in question and present evidence. Then we would try to see where this person got his wealth. We would apply the principle: Where did you get this? But this would be in an organized framework to avoid injustice and anarchy; this would have to be done in the open.

Gradually, we would know and establish whether wealth was acquired legally. Those who have become rich legally, may God give them more wealth. But if we discover that something was earned in an unreasonable manner, this would open the way for us to find the origin, because this is where the game of corruption lies and where we find the people who manipulate laws or exploit the gaps that exist in the state structure to accumulate money.

In so doing, we can gradually cleanse our society in an organized manner. I suggested then that above these committees, at the grassroots level, there should be appeal committees at the provincial level. I also suggested that there should be a national committee to set the record straight and to ensure that decisions are not restricted to one side.

Without going into details, I presented this idea in 1979, and it was rejected. Why? It was said that it affected people. Rumors were also spread then that officials would enter your homes and look for your wife's jewelry, and so on, and people started worrying. Then everything was buried and you saw what happened in the subsequent decade. So I personally believe that we must get rid of this issue. We are ready to rely on the state bodies, but I am also ready to invite the people themselves to tell them that if they are really concerned with this problem they should mobilize. I also believe that the state is prepared to take part in this action. This action must be part of the foundations aimed at reviving the political action and at cleansing politics and our society.

Today we are attempting to agree on anything that can bring us together and on anything that would tell us who we should agree with and who we should disagree with. We will find a way to tackle this corruption issue, and we must find out how we can involve the people in this. We need some sort of popular uprising, but an organized uprising. If we do not want such a system, we should remain silent. That would mean that we are satisfied. If

that is the case, we should keep quiet. If we are not satisfied, we should get our act together. But the corruption issue, in view of the proportion it has reached, is not an issue that can be treated only through the action of the head of state, the prime minister, and the government. The entire society must mobilize to confront this problem. This is what can be said about the domestic aspect of this problem.

But everybody knows that the results of corruption are most often found abroad; that is, information on it, its traces, and its results are found with other people in other states. This information exists but is not in our hands, so we cannot get acquainted with it.

At that time, in 1979, I said that we should work at the international level [to combat corruption]. First, we should work at the bilateral level between the Algerian state and every state which deals with us. We should make the issue of fighting corruption a condition for strengthening and developing our economic relations: We have a problem, give us the information you have or some things we request, or let us come to get acquainted with some figures or dossiers you have in your possession, so that we know what is happening. If you do not deal with us, we will consider you accomplices of these people who are dealing us blows.

At the time, I met a European ambassador who told me: If I understood well, this means you are asking us to help carry out police work in your country. I told him: Why not, son? What about you, when you have drugs or terrorists—they were talking about terrorists—you ask us to help you because you have problems in your countries. You ask us to help you: Who is smuggling drugs to your country, etc. We also have a drug, and at the present time it is corruption. [passage omitted]

As far as the government itself is concerned, I can pledge that I will not cover up anything we find. As for the dossiers that might exist, we will look into them and send them to the judiciary. Fighting corruption, under current conditions, is a problem that concerns everybody. [passage omitted]

As for the general or main orientation of government action, as I said at the beginning, in the first words I uttered, everything revolves around the problem of external debt. There are some facts known to everybody. They are known and my brothers who preceded me in the government announced them, but it is perhaps better if I recall them.

The country's debts have remained stationary, as they say, for four or five years; that is, \$25 billion, more or less, depending on data, the value of the dollar, etc. But the debts have generally amounted to \$25 billion and have remained stationary. Servicing the debts, however—that is, what the country pays every year to service these debts, either to pay back the capital or the interest—cost us \$5 billion in 1987, \$6 billion in 1988, \$7 billion in 1989, \$9 billion in 1990, \$9 billion in 1991, and nearly \$10 billion in 1992. When we say \$10 billion,

we have nearly reached the amount we earn every year from exports. Our exports range between \$10-12 billion, depending on the year and prices. [passage omitted]

The attempt that will be made by this government will start from this phenomenon. We must set out on an action, a direction, that will get us out of this trap and will slowly enable us to recover our freedom of action, our freedom of movement, that will enable us to face problems, not only those of activating the daily economy—that is, boosting the economy or boosting the activities of production—but also the problems of development in the future. [passage omitted]

When we talk about development, I think that we must not make promises. I will say this with all objectivity: I do not believe that any official in this country, under current conditions, can promise people that he can improve their conditions. We must know that it would be great if we can put an end to the deterioration because the conditions we are in—or the data we have—can only lead to deterioration because our means are limited and our needs are going to increase. [passage omitted]

If we abandon the principle of social justice, anyway, some people's affairs will improve and others will sink. Therefore, each one should say what he likes—what he likes for himself—but at the same time one must say what he likes for his country and what he likes for his brethren. [passage omitted]

Therefore, concerning the direction of this government, [changes to French] the orientation of this government, I think that the first objective is to escape the debt trap. This is an objective of prime importance. There are not 36 ways to escape debt. The one possibility is to increase revenue; this is an objective and a means.

[Reverts to Arabic] The present circumstances, the present hour, could change. For example, the field in which we could quickly increase our profits is the field of hydrocarbons, such as gasoline. There are people who believe that gasoline is a curse upon us, but I believe it is a mercy and wish from God, to Whom be ascribed all perfection and majesty to increase and expand this mercy for the Algerian people. We are depending on increasing our exports in this field. As you know, I was among the people who, from the very outset, especially in recent years, called for an effort to increase Algeria's exports in the field of hydrocarbons. I said it in 1989, when I had a chance to speak out after many years. I said that a special effort is needed to increase our exports in order to obtain what is sufficient to face up to our problems, face up to our indebtedness, or get rid of debts. We regret that this effort was not made in time; it came late.

Also, I was among the people who supported the participation of foreign companies in developing this sector, especially the idea Sid Ahmed Ghazali developed last year that brother Nouredine Ait Laoussine was charged with executing. This idea aims first at bringing foreign

participants to help us deal with some technical problems concerning production, and second at exploiting all our reserves—be it crude gasoline, natural gas, condensate, or liquid gases—in all fields. All reserves must be exploited wisely, at any rate.

Concerning oil exploration, because Algeria is open wide in this field and is still unknown, we should not depend only on what is known but must learn how to discover new reserves and increase efficiency; that is, the efficiency of our exploitation. [preceding five words in French] All these are among the things we could carry out ourselves, but it is better to find a foreign collaborator with expertise in this field to bring us financial and technical contributions. At any rate, in return for this we give them their rights. As for production, it does not mean selling to them. It is like a shopkeeper who tells his client: I will save something for you. This means it is reserved, and when you come to collect it you pay its value. It does not mean that it is sold in advance, it means that it is reserved for you—we are thinking of you. That is all. They said Hassi Messaoud was sold, the land was sold, and I do not know what else, and people started to say this law is unnecessary, and either the government must change or this law should be abolished. We should avoid behavior like this when it touches on the homeland's interest.

In short, we want to say that people going in the same direction support this government. We try to look into how to deepen this, but in return for this participation, in return for this specialization, [changes to French] the idea of reserving something for these partners in the exploitation of these deposits in the Sahara, there must, and we asked for a sort of entry fee, [reverts to Arabic], the key right, the right of participation, because those gasoline people do not merely look for gasoline but they take risks, they spend in an area, and may or may not find something. [sentence as heard]

Here we say: Keep some of the production for yourself. He does not take risks. The one who will take a new field, a new perimeter of exploitation, invests and finds deposits sometimes; but sometimes he does not. In this case, he has production reserved for him, for which he has not taken any risks. [preceding three sentences in French]

Parallel to this, we demanded—or rather Sonatrach demanded—a kind of right of access. This right of access should be evaluated, however. It should be assessed according to the requirements of the market. According to the information available to me, there are some proposals from companies who offered sums of money. But our officials from Sonatrach and the Ministry of Energy assessed the matter and concluded that the sums proposed did not meet the required level of the deal. I believe that our staff now has the necessary technical capability to understand the market and assess the value of what they possess.

Nevertheless, one realizes why these companies deliberately offered us low sums of money. They offered us limited proposals in comparison to proposals that our services judged to be right and normal. [words indistinct] they believe that these people are experiencing economic difficulties and that they are in dire straits and will accept anything. That is not true. Regarding this point, one must be patient. We are well inclined toward cooperation, but we are not ready to sell cheaply or at any price. We will wait as long as it takes. In any case, if we cannot achieve the estimated value, the value that is worked out with a great deal of objectivity and realism—the real value—then we prefer not to sell. We will continue as we have in the past.

Before my appointment as head of the government, and in public statements I made, I indicated that I was ready to go even further regarding the partnership issue. I am ready to revert some companies to the situation that existed in 1971, when we carried out the nationalization program. When we nationalized companies in 1971 we did not exclude foreign companies. We no longer have control over the oil industry at home, but we did not exclude the participation of foreign companies.

New ideas emerged later that called for disposing of them totally—this is another matter. Now, if we are to go back to the plan we followed in 1971, the nationalization program of 1971, I am not against this. This is only possible, however, within a framework where an equilibrium between the interests of these and the others is respected. This is regarding the issue of the increase of export revenues; that is, export receipts. On the other hand, there is a problem regarding the other issue represented in the outgoings. From our point of view, they are the imports expenditure. At the present time, we are talking about a volume of imports to the tune of 9 billion U.S. dollars.

I will give you the figures: The export revenues vary between \$10-12 billion over the years; debts between \$9-10 billion. Therefore, if we want to continue as we are, we should pay off the debts on the one hand, and obtain other debts from other quarters every year. Therefore, this is a snowball. This is a vicious circle from which we cannot get out. How can we emerge from this? If there is no miracle—I do not think that one should expect an extraordinary miracle during the coming years—one should make a decision. This decision affects everyone. We should find a way. I said before that we must live off of what we possess. I tabled this idea in 1989 in the first statement I gave to our radio's Channel 3, I believe, and I gave it to the papers, to REVOLUTION AFRICAINE. I announced this idea to REVOLUTION AFRICAINE. I mentioned it to the old FLN [National Liberation Front] cadres in September 1989. I stated the idea on several occasions. No one took this idea into account. They kept telling me it was a good idea, then they neglected it.

On another occasion, I tabled the idea using a different term. I said that we should launch a war economy and

everybody began pointing their fingers at me. All I did was change two words. It was still the same idea but because I called it a war economy, everybody began talking about war economy as if we were about to declare war against the world and everybody wondered what was going to happen. No, we will not declare war against anyone. We will launch a war against ourselves; we should show whether we are capable of facing up to our problems ourselves. What are the measures to be taken in this context? We should try—I say try—to survive by settling accounts with our money. [passage omitted]

In general, particularly during this period when we must reduce debts, we must rely on the mobilization of our internal resources in order to decrease or eliminate the need to borrow from abroad in order to finance direct consumption or the activation of our internal production that is destined for internal consumption. We must either eliminate them completely or at least reduce them. I am ready in this field to reach the point, if solution is necessary, and stop some services. I will do so in order not to bring intermediate products or raw materials which require foreign currency—that is, (?to be financed) with loans—and instead produce a product that is consumed. This does not mean putting an end to factories. What we will do is a kind of hibernation; that is, stopping a factory temporarily just as a machine is stopped, stopping it wisely in a way that allows that factory to return to its work when conditions are available the next day. Thus, we must find other uses for workers and cadres. [passage omitted]

If there is a necessity, and there are some things that are necessary, and we must borrow, and if there are cases where there are products for which we must still have recourse to external loan, we will do so. We have to be careful, however, and try to minimize the need to import. There are some projects that we can postpone to get out of this circle. [passage omitted]

The thing we notice, without going into details, is that we are asked in exchange for some assistance that will not get us out of the problem. [sentence as heard] Nowadays, we get in a year some payment, sometimes conditional, that does not exceed 1 to 1.5 billion dollars. It does not get us out of the problem, it postpones the problem. In 1989 they told me: By God, in three years (?everything will be paid off). Every year you find out that there are three years in front of you. Where are we going? If we carry on like this, every year [word indistinct], we push the columns standing before us and always carry on. We must break those columns if we want to get out of the dilemma we are in.

[Changes to French] Parallel to this, they do not give us the amount of money or the solutions to help us emerge from this crisis. They dictate conditions that undermine our internal structure; undermine the formation of our society. Those who paid the price for the measures which have been taken so far are the youth. Those who have nothing, their standard of living has deteriorated; those who have a little, their standard of living has been

affected; and those who began to breathe, those who represent the result of development, those who were promoted since independence and became part of the middle class, small bourgeois, they forgot. [sentence as heard] Their situation changed and this is natural. This is the aim of development. A development which does not change one's situation in every society cannot be called a development. Now they are telling us to go back to where we came from.

There is an attempt to push us down, to drive us toward poverty. Regarding this, I believe that we have reached the limit; it is all over; we can no longer go down any further. The popular classes cannot be driven any lower. Those who believe that this position is a demagogic one, let me stress that this is my position.

I will not take part in another operation because I am somehow ready to take part in the operation of rescuing the country. I cannot subscribe to a political failure that was not mine. If we are to embark on addressing the bankruptcy operation and supervise it, there are people who are more qualified than me to do this. [passage omitted]

Let us be clear, there is no question of social vengeance; there is no question of prosecuting people for what they possess. People should understand that if we do not emerge from this crisis, there will be no peace for anyone; there will be no wealth for anyone. What is the advantage of building a villa, of ownership or expansion, when every day one is forced to tighten the belt? [passage omitted]

We are facing a serious situation; a situation that warrants everyone's mobilization. This is not a natural situation. If none of us feel that he is called upon to face up to this situation, let us leave matters until the whole situation explodes, then who knows what might happen?

Hence, this is our action. We should try to find a way of being self-sufficient. Self-sufficiency here is not related to dozens or billions of dollars or imports; but is related to how our maximum internal potential to avoid imports and face up to the necessary needs, the means of survival.

Despite this, the government is committed to do everything it can to guarantee the provision of the minimum necessary vital needs. [passage omitted]

[Reverts to Arabic] We will guarantee security, which is necessary for defense. Some people think that because we are in a state of crisis we can be pushed around. Here we should know that although we have problems, we are capable of defending ourselves. Generally speaking, any state and any nation guarantees its own stability and the security of its borders so that it can guarantee domestic peace. We will guarantee what is necessary for vital sectors in the country, such as agriculture, some strategic industries, and housing, for instance. This is not administrative management, but we are forced to determine priorities in the use of the state's limited capabilities.

Some people will say that this is a reversion to a state-controlled economy. We have still not come out of the state-controlled economy. In the past, licenses were issued by the central administration, such as planning or commerce and so forth. Who issues licenses now? They are in the hands of banks, in the hands of the Central Bank and others. They make decisions. What used to be decided by planning or commerce is now bank-controlled. People use contacts to move ahead.

Therefore, determining priorities must be in the hands of the people responsible for the country. Prosecuting those priorities must be the task of the people in the executive. [passage omitted]

We have housing problems. I know that the late Mohamed Boudiaf pledged to provide 60,000 housing units in one year. According to the information I have, however, that target may not be achievable, although we will do our utmost to achieve it, if not within the prescribed deadline, at least without great delay. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Central Bank, I believe the people note that the law of 1989, God knows—or is it 1990? Yes, it is 1990—the law on finance and credit. Nearly all prerogatives on the management of finance were transferred from the government to the Algerian bank, the Central Bank. [passage omitted]

We note that the final decision regarding imports lies with the Central Bank, the management of foreign investments lies with the Central Bank; some permits regarding the revival of national economy are controlled by the Central Bank. It has the final decision; even the use of some foreign loans is regulated by the Central Bank. Matters should revert to what they used to be in the past. [passage omitted]

To manage the country's economy under normal circumstances, and especially during a time of crisis, there should be a kind of harmony between the bodies responsible for the management of this economy. I believe this is what I wanted to say on the change that affected the leadership of the Central Bank.

[El-Massa] Prime Minister, you talked at great length—I am Mussadak el-Massa, by the way—about the economy. You did not touch upon the electoral process, however. We would like to know your view on the forthcoming elections, and if possible if you could announce a definite date for them. Also, you did not talk about the criteria which were used to choose the members of the new government. Also, is there a new project on the basic school or the educational institution? Thank you.

[Abdesselam] Regarding the democratic process—do you mean democratic or electoral process? I did not talk about it much, especially during the signature ceremony of my appointment. Regarding the democratic process, this is a matter between the Higher State Council and the government. We all agree that we should resume the

electoral process. Nevertheless, we must choose one of two things: If what happened at the end of last year is considered satisfactory, it is easy to resume. If, however, we believe that what happened at the end of last year did pose a danger to the country, we cannot resume the same situation without redressing it.

I believe that the resumption of the electoral process is conditional on two elements. First, the return of calm as far as the citizens are concerned, the return of some reassurance to the citizens, and achievement of raising their awareness of the real and fateful problems of the country; that is, people should be aware of the real problems of the country and around which a democratic debate should be held. I can come back to this idea later on if you like. Second, the administrative infrastructure should be put in place. Among the first instructions I gave to the interior minister was to review the electoral list. [passage omitted]

I also think that there are also political conditions that should be met so that elections can take place in light of the problems facing the country, and according to the vital problems as experienced by the country; and not in view of the kind of problems that we witnessed last December. There are people who asked me: How were you chosen to lead the government if you lost the election?

I met people and conducted a quiet campaign in my region. The people who I met, and especially the group that won the seat officially, informed me: Because of your stand you are taking votes away from the Islamic solution. I told them that I am a Muslim, and I am defending an Islamic solution; I am like you. I will not go into details, but at the end the choice was between God Almighty, perish the thought, and myself. I told them that God defeated me because he is always victorious. What I mean is that people should emerge from this kind of atmosphere. I am committed to Islam, Islamic education, the shari'ah, and Islamic traditions. I met these people and asked them to pinpoint what is not Islamic in this country. We are ready to reform anything that needs reforming. They are welcome. I am ready to participate. I wonder what is not Islamic in this country these days.

We found ourselves discussing the issue of bars, this and that, whether or not to close the bars; the issue of schools for girls and boys and whether to have mixed schools; and transport. Anyway, maybe these have their importance. Regarding alcohol for example, if closing down bars would end the problem of alcohol in Algeria, I am prepared to burn them down 100 times. The problem, however, is how to decrease these diseases; this is an issue of public order—a question of morale and public order. But at the end of the day, these are the issues used during the elections. Probably this should happen when our society reaches the same level as Sweden—the Swedish have reached a stage when they are looking for stories because they have nothing else to talk about. I hope that the minister of religious affairs will not take this wrong. Each issue has its own importance and we

should not belittle it. But, now we are facing an extremely serious situation that affects the life of the country. Our dialogue and political clashes should revolve around finding suitable and necessary solutions to these problems; and may be in this way we may achieve a result.

Because you raised this issue, I will not conceal my identity from you and from the Algerians. Since I was a child I have always said that I am a nationalist. I believe that the crisis we are facing in the political field was the result of the divisions within the nationalist movement in the country. It is the divisions within the nationalist current that created the political situation we are living today. [preceeding sentence in French] Some belong to the FLN, others to the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]; some are Islamists, others God knows what; some are followers of Ben Bella [Movement for Democracy in Algeria leader], others are followers of Ait Ahmed [Socialist Forces Front leader]. In any case, there are other people but. [Changes to French] I believe, and it is my conviction—here I am giving the viewpoint of a militant and I am perhaps seizing the opportunity which is given to me here to say it, and maybe I am taking advantage of my position but I say it with much serenity and a firm belief—it is the break within the nationalist movement, which was the backbone of the struggle of this people and of the construction of this country, which is the cause of our present weakness. It is probably also the cause of the deviations that occurred in the past few years.

I also think that the country's salvation will be guaranteed if all the nationalist militants who broke away and who were divided realize that it is their divisions that are the origin of the country's difficulties. They must also realize that they must get together again and close ranks. What has just happened must be remembered as a lesson so that similar things do not occur between them again and so that they learn to put the country's interests, the nation's higher interests, the interests of the ideal for which they have lived, above all other personal considerations. If the regrouping of these forces implies that some people must give up their places voluntarily out of patriotic duty, these people must do it. I believe that the Algerian people will then recover their vigor.

I also believe that even on the economic plane, we could perhaps recover not only some respect but even some possibilities. Why? [reverts to Arabic] Here I am going back, some of you might be saying that in a question on the elections he is taking us back to the economy. [Changes to French] In any case things are usually disjointed. But put yourselves in the shoes of those states from whom we regularly ask for money to eat. [Reverts to Arabic] We tell these states: If you do not give us money, our people will rise; [changes to French] there will be incidents in Algeria. [Reverts to Arabic] They will wonder and say: These people who are talking like this, who do they think they are? [Changes to French] They are incapable of leading their people; they are incapable

of talking to their people, they are incapable of confronting their people. They come to us to ask for the means to appease their people. How can you expect us to be respected? How can you expect us to be respected abroad? [Reverts to Arabic] How can you expect people abroad to respect us, when we go to them to beg for money in order to keep our people quiet and to conceal from our people the shortcomings that appeared in the management of our affairs?

The day when the eyes of these people were open, they said: Fair enough. These people are engaged in politics; they were facing problems and took up politics. [passage omitted]

I do not fear anybody except our people; I do not fear people from abroad. I pledge myself before our people that if I fail I will go, this is what will happen to me. If this solution does not work, let other people come and try. As for the outside world, I will not submit; I will not bow. But, on the other hand, I will not declare unnecessary challenges. We do not aim to provoke or challenge anybody. All we are looking for is to guarantee the survival of our country, to allow our country to work legitimately amid conditions of dignity. [passage omitted]

We have no dates—I have set no dates for the resumption of the electoral process. In my view, I believe that sooner is better; the sooner the better, but the conditions should be put in place. Could we really hold elections now, when every hour we hear that someone has been killed here or there, and so on? All those people and the entire Algerian people should realize that the destiny of the country is in danger. These operations should end. We must return to paying attention to national problems. Then we will resume the electoral process and formulate a system that will satisfy everybody.

Regarding education, there has been some talk on education—I do not know whether I understood your question. There are people who say that we have abolished the Ministry of Higher Education and merged it with the Ministry of Education. Why is the current ministry called the Ministry of National Education? At times I wonder whether people really do not understand or just pretend not to understand. We abolished the two ministries, the former Ministry of Education and the former Ministry of Higher Education, and replaced them with a new unified ministry, the Ministry of National Education, because we believe that the education of our sons is a unifying factor. At any rate, the education process has stages, in accordance with the age of the child, but the education of our children should proceed in accordance with a unified plan. [passage omitted]

When we see the programs—in my previous tours to meet students at the university, they tell you we have been following French or other programs for years. When you go to libraries, there are people who refer me to such and such a book, which was published more than 15 years ago. There are more things, and we are not going

into details. With the passage of time, our programs become even more outdated. We believe that we need to see how we can raise the level of our educational programs so that education is absorbed—science, knowledge—so that the information absorbed by our sons is at the level appropriate for that age. [passage omitted]

People in higher education complain and say: They have belittled us, they annexed us, they swallowed us. The fact is they are the ones who swallowed others, because the minister who is today in charge of the unified ministry has a higher education. [passage omitted]

Islamist Leader Arrested, 'Seriously Injured'

LD2807192292 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network*
in French 1800 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] We have learned from APS, which quotes reliable sources, of the arrest of Mansouri Miliani, one of the leaders of the armed Islamic groups. He was arrested yesterday morning at El Achour in Tipaza province. The same sources claim that Miliani was seriously injured.

84 Islamists Released From Detention Centers

LD 807201392 *Paris Radio France International*
in French 1830 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] In Algeria, 84 Islamists held at the Reggane and Ouargla security centers were freed today, according to the evening daily EL DJAZAIR EL YOUM.

At the same time, the paper reported the arrest of one of the main leaders of the armed Islamist groups, Mansouri Miliani. He has been sought for several weeks and was reportedly wounded seriously during his arrest in the region of Tipasa, west of the capital.

Bomb Explodes Near Suburban Algiers Court

LD2807173492 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network*
in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] It has been learned from a security source in El Harrach that a homemade bomb exploded at about 0730 this morning near the court building, but caused no damage or casualties. The source added that the bomb had been placed in a workshop adjacent to the court building, on which extension work has been started.

The National Gendarmerie Command drew attention to the seriousness of sabotage acts, which are targeting postal and transport facilities, and reminded people that the law sternly punishes the perpetrators of such acts. In view of the fact that most of these acts are committed by teenagers, the gendarmerie services urged guardians to be extra vigilant.

Higher State Council Praises Security Forces

LD2807225992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] The Higher State Council [HSC] met today at the Presidency under Ali Kafi and issued a statement.

The HSC assessed the situation in the country, especially concerning public security and order. In its statement, the HSC saluted all the security forces for their devotion in the defense of public order and the tranquility of the citizens, congratulated them on the recorded results, and bowed before all those who fall victim fulfilling the national duty. It reiterated that the preservation of public order is a matter that concerns all citizens, organizations, associations, and political parties.

The statement added that the forgiving stance, which assumes an alleged neutrality between the forces of evil and those attending to the strength of the state and the tranquility of the citizens, can only be the result of miscalculations; it amounts to indifference.

Egypt

Police Conducting House Searches in Dayrut

NC2807144592 Paris AFP in English 1426 GMT
28 Jul 92

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, July 28 (AFP) - Police sealed off the southern Egyptian town of Dayrut on Tuesday and conducted house-to-house searches for Islamic extremists following attacks which left two dead and three wounded. Extremists mounted raids Monday against a police station and the court and public prosecutor's building, killing a policeman and a boy, and wounding a policeman and two passers-by.

Police said checkpoints had been set up at Dayrut's entry and exit points and riot squad police had been sent overnight to the town in the Asyut district. Most of the 60,000 inhabitants stayed at home, while Christian-owned shops were boarded up.

Police said security had been eased in the town after the arrest of Jamal Farahali Haradi on July 11, believed to be the mastermind of militant Islamic attacks in the Asyut district mainly against Coptic Christians and police.

The attacks came after Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa declared Sunday that 73 extremists had been arrested in connection with violence in and around Dayrut since March and that order had been restored.

Labor's Shukri Rejects Antiterrorism Laws

NC2607193592 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
21 Jul 92 p 3

[Excerpts] Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri participated in the closed seminar held at the Doctors Association on Tuesday. He also attended an international

news conference called by the patriotic forces at the Lawyers Association to express their anger and rejection of the government's antiterrorism laws.

On both occasions, Shukri spelled out the Labor Party's clear position regarding these laws. He revealed the falsehood of the ruling regime, which would do anything it takes to remain in power. Toward that end, the regime is ready to completely disregard all its claims about democracy and freedom while at the same time leading the world to believe that a multiparty system, freedoms, and freedom of the press exist in Egypt, he added.

Shukri warned about the government's constant attempts to reduce the margin of opposition activity in any way possible. He noted that the government-proposed law amendments, allegedly to combat terrorism, constitute a repetition of the measures taken by former President al-Sadat. When al-Sadat thought of ending martial law, he introduced a number of ill-reputed measures and laws, including the establishment of state security courts and the appointment of a socialist prosecutor, Shukri added. [passage omitted]

As part of the popular moves to express opposition to the amendments introduced to the penal code to combat terrorism, representatives of the political parties and forces, professional associations, and university staff clubs held an international news conference on Wednesday [15 July] at the Lawyers Association. The groups announced their total rejection of these amendments, which they said legalize government terrorism against individuals, in blatant violation of human rights and the freedoms stipulated under the Constitution and in national laws.

Muslim Brotherhood representative Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna described the new amendments as a setback to freedoms, saying that the repercussions of the acts will be serious. He noted that under these amendments, any citizen could be detained for up to six months without judicial supervision. He noted that the government had introduced these amendments to cover up its failure to effectively confront the recent acts of violence and terrorism, something that led to the aggravation of this phenomenon. This is particularly true since the government continues to restrict freedoms by implementing the extraordinary laws, such as the law regulating political parties, publishing newspapers, and the election laws.

Al-Banna added: The people are frustrated about being denied these constitutional rights, the continued violation of human rights in prisons and detention centers, and the use of the most brutal means of torture and repression against the people. Entire villages, he continued, have been besieged and dozens of villagers killed, something not even the British did during their occupation of Egypt, he added. Al-Banna noted that these amendments exacerbate the situation, thus opening the door to more repressive powers and suppression of freedoms, which, he added, will cause the phenomenon of terrorism to spread. The state must follow the right

track and honor the rule of law, allow equal opportunity, and respect the Constitution, he noted. [passage omitted]

***Musa on Peace Process, Lockerbie, Algeria**

92AE0534A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
23 Jul 92 p 5

[Interview With 'Amr Musa, Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs, by 'Abd-al-Hamid Yahyawi; place and date not given: "'Amr Musa, Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs: I Am Cautiously Optimistic About Peace Process in Region; Let Us Give Quiet Diplomacy a Chance in Lockerbie Crisis"]

[Text] Brussels—On the occasion of his participation in the activities of the Egyptian-European Cooperation Council which has discussed ties between the European Community [EC] and Egypt, Egypt's minister for foreign affairs, 'Amr Musa, spoke to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about Egyptian-European cooperation and about Baker's latest tour of the region.

Here is 'Amr Musa's interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT:

[Yahyawi] How has Egyptian-European cooperation progressed in light of the new European tendency to make Egypt a touchstone for Europe's Mediterranean cooperation?

[Musa] You are aware that the EC cooperates with a large number of Mediterranean countries. I don't think that Egypt is the touchstone for this cooperation. Rather, it is the party with which the EC discusses all political and economic affairs, the peace process, the Mediterranean security situation, and all conditions that affect security and stability in the region. Therefore, the latest meeting with the EC countries has been an important meeting in which we discussed the various issues of joint interest, especially the peace process, the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue, the various economic cooperation issues, and the idea of a Mediterranean countries club.

[Yahyawi] Do you think that this time around Baker is carrying in his bag new ideas to boost the Middle East peace process?

[Musa] I believe that the issue depends on what Baker brings because there are new elements and developments in the situation as a result of the change of government in Israel, not only as it pertains to this new government's way of doing business—because Rabin is not Shamir, but also as it pertains to Rabin's positions on the various issues presented for negotiation. I believe that this development has led to a revival of hope in promoting the peace process. The meetings held today with the European side, which is an important party to the peace process, fall within the context of what will be discussed with Israel's prime minister and with the U.S. secretary of state. All this falls within the framework of preparations to boost the peace process and to set it on the right and sound path anew.

[Yahyawi] Rabin's visit to Cairo carries more than one indicator. What, in your opinion, are its likely ramifications?

[Musa] Its ramifications will be significant because we will hear Rabin's expressed opinions directly, not to mention [that we will discuss] other issues raised in the arena. We also have our viewpoints on these issues, be they the settlements issue or the issue of negotiating and making progress on all fronts. The Palestinian aspect requires a lot more attention and care, as does the issue of the Syrian Golan Heights. There is no indecision regarding Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights or regarding Israel's complete withdrawal from them. Also, there is South Lebanon which must feel safe under Lebanese sovereignty. Regarding the Palestinian self-rule issue, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination must be taken into account. We will also discuss Israel's withdrawal in accordance with the principle of the impermissibility of the seizure of territory by force.

[Yahyawi] Regarding the settlements, what is Cairo's position on what Rabin calls security settlements and political settlements in the occupied Arab territories?

[Musa] We make no distinction between one kind of settlements and another and we know of no tactical settlements or strategic settlements, white, red, or blue settlements. When we talk of settlements, we talk of them as an illegal act that poses a threat to peace. The truth is that if the settlements continue, it will be difficult to understand the peace process or to give it a credible image and to support it, unless the objective is to influence the withdrawal issue and to partition these territories. But if that is the case, we will have launched the peace process with a faulty start. There has to be a complete stop [to settlement construction], and I believe that what the Israeli prime minister has said in this regard isn't final. The fact is that I am talking to you before meeting with Rabin. I will discuss this point specifically with him when we meet.

[Yahyawi] Do you think that Rabin could be Israel's de Gaulle and that he has the political courage to go to the PLO and negotiate with it directly on peace?

[Musa] Regarding the PLO, there is no doubt whatsoever about its representation of the Palestinian people. The latest actions and developments have made it clear how much political power the PLO has. As to how matters could develop along this Gaullist line, this depends on the circumstances. What is important for us is that we leave no stone unturned in seeking peace. We try to march along the peace path according to the current given conditions. It isn't necessary that we repeat things done in the past the way Charles de Gaulle or Anwar al-Sadat, both of whom played historic political roles, did them. We are open and somewhat, and I stress somewhat, optimistic about the future in this regard.

[Yahyawi] The Arab-Israeli peace journey set forth from Madrid on the basis of President Bush's initiative which is founded on the principle of land for peace and

implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. Has this journey's course changed since the bilateral talks were obstructed?

[Musa] The bilateral talks were not obstructed but rather suspended until conclusion of the Israeli elections. As I understand it, these talks will be resumed, and so will the multi-lateral talks. All this is based on the principle of land for peace which leads to comprehensive peace that encompasses withdrawal, the right to self-determination, and security measures.

[Yahyawi] You told me personally in Cairo: In the course of the peace process, we must understand at some time that there is a possibility of reaching an accord or of standing still. In your opinion, does the current phase harbor positive indicators of forward movement by the Middle East peace train or have we reached a deadend?

[Musa] We certainly haven't reached a deadend. There are numerous opportunities for the peace train to move forward. We are optimistic, and I say cautiously optimistic. What I mean is that our optimism isn't absolute. Everything depends on what initiatives Rabin will make and what positions he will take to alter the rigid position with which we were surprised and confronted by his predecessor's, Shamir's, administration.

[Yahyawi] What character do you expect the next phase of the Arab-Israeli peace talks to take and what about coordination of the Arab entire Arab position?

[Musa] Regarding coordination, this will be done at the meeting which will be held in Damascus at the end of this month for all the negotiating parties. The meeting will discuss the developments and the conditions and will coordinate the positions. There is progress in the Arab arena toward coordination and exchange of opinion, not to mention the discussion of a number of issues connected with the circumstances surrounding the negotiation process, whether in the form of the Israeli position or of the U.S. elections.

[Yahyawi] In another area, what point have the activities of the seven-member committee reached on the Lockerbie problem?

[Musa] Progress is being made on this issue. We hope to stem any escalation and to develop a satisfactory solution compatible with international legitimacy, taking into account the brothers' interests.

[Yahyawi] Is the Libyan response satisfactory to the western countries concerned?

[Musa] There continues to be active contacts that haven't reached a specific conclusion yet. Therefore, I will refrain from discussing this issue so that we can give quiet diplomacy its chance.

[Yahyawi] Regarding the developments in Algeria, do you think that they will have their ramifications to Egypt?

[Musa] Yes. The Algerian developments have their impact on the entire Arab world, as do developments in any Arab country, such as the developments in Lebanon. Algeria's developments affect the entire Arab world. We

are supposed to be a single body. Accordingly, this impact is extant. As for the situation itself, we wish Algeria's people and government stability and hope that they will overcome the current crisis successfully because Algeria is a sisterly country that has an important Arab role and a third world role. We, on our part, appreciate its role.

Daily Says Rabin 'Seeking Large Price From West'

NC2607073392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0603 GMT
26 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—In its editorial today, the Cairo-based newspaper AL-AHRAM writes that it seems that Israel's new Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes that politics should focus on mutual interests. This explains why he visited Egypt and said he was ready to meet Arab leaders concerned with the peace process either in Israel, Damascus, Beirut, or Amman.

AL-AHRAM writes that Rabin's perspective contrasts with that of former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who saw politics as a single-minded quest to achieve Israeli interests. It is this contrast that produces an acute feeling of novelty, a desire to accelerate the peace process, and a wish for all sides to make positive proposals to capitalize on this historic opportunity.

AL-AHRAM notes that Rabin's approach is to deal with everyone on the assumption that peace is a dynamic process based on bartering and exchanging benefits in the framework of international legitimacy, modern values, and the new international order.

Bartering is one thing and one-upmanship is another, however. Bartering involves a real desire to achieve equitable peace through various options and methods that are enduring and stable.

AL-AHRAM adds that Rabin's new policy is perhaps a mixture of bartering and one-upmanship. On the one hand, Rabin has opened up to his neighbors to explore the possibility of reaching an understanding and finding common ground. On the other hand, Rabin has directed part of his peace rhetoric toward non-Arab parties, specifically the United States and Europe.

AL-AHRAM concludes by saying that Rabin seems to be seeking a large price from the West for his changed attitude toward peace. But his success will depend on whether he engages in barter or one-upmanship with the Arab sides.

Daily Urges 'New Chapter' in Peace Process

NC2707081792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 27 Jul 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH's editorial revolves around the headline "The Arab Principles Expressed in the Damascus Statement." The paper writes: The Arab

countries have confirmed their belief and adherence to the principle of establishing comprehensive, just, and permanent peace in the region. The Damascus statement issued by the Arab cordons states clarified the details of an important stage where efforts are being exerted to approve and implement the settlement. The paper notes that the statement proceeds from a basic principle that has been approved by the whole world, namely, the principle of land for peace, including Jerusalem, in implementing international legitimacy. Since the year of the aggression, this international legitimacy has been represented by Resolution 242, which states that acquiring land by force is illegitimate.

AL-JUMHURIYAH continues: Today, while the possibilities for a settlement are entering a new stage, a new chapter in the peace process should be opened. The first line of this chapter should contain Israel's prior statement that it is committed to the basic principles to establish a comprehensive, just, and permanent peace.

The second line should contain an Israeli resolution to stop settlements, not only by considering it an obstacle to peace, but also an illegal measure endangering the whole peace process at a time when numerous powers expect this march to make progress.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes with the affirmation that the peace process will advance and a settlement will be realized. The faster this occurs the better, as long as it takes place within the framework of international legitimacy. This constitutes the basic guarantee for making the objectives of this settlement comprehensive and firm. The Damascus statement's confirmations of the Arab principles stem from the principles of international law and legitimacy.

Paper Criticizes Turkey's 'Dangerous' Water Policy

NC2707112092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT
26 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM notes the seriousness of Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's statement at the inauguration of a dam southeast of Anatolia, in which he called for Turkish control of its waters and said Turkey has a right to do what it wants with its waters. In a 27 July editorial, the paper writes that such a statement not only expresses a new Turkish position on water but also violates international law and norms and runs counter to friendship and good neighborliness. This position contradicts international norms on water courses that run through more than one country. The paper notes that Turkey's right to develop its water projects and benefit from them must not be at the expense of the Syrian and Iraqi peoples who share the Turkish water sources and have having lived thousands of years on part of them.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM describes Turkey's endeavors to exploit all its water courses and deprive the two neighboring Arab countries of them as a death sentence on the right of a neighboring people and

country's economy with no convincing reasons or right. It says it also means that Turkey's regional ambitions will be endless and that it intends to exploit water as a political weapon, which is dangerous.

Libya

Daily Urges 'Direct Dialogue' With West

LD2807125292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT
28 Jul 92

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Jul (JANA)—The AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper discussed in its issue today the importance of direct dialogue, meetings, and negotiations with America, Britain, and France to solve all issues and published an article entitled "We carry the olive branch and the rifle" by Nisrin Naji, which stated the following:

"We and the West are the victims of a lie [word indistinct]. The West believed Libya supports terrorism and stands behind that. We believed the intermediaries are concerned about our interests and are trying to narrow the gap that formed between us and the West due to the lie. But the reality proves to us day after day that nobody cares about our interests, and nobody is trying to bring our problem with the West to an end."

The newspaper added: "We have nothing to hide, and we do not have a secret that the others are trying to conceal or cover. All we have is that we are a free and sovereign people who possess the political will through people's congresses, whose sons share the wealth that God has granted them, and who try to find peaceful solutions.

"The West must verify the reality of this by itself without intermediaries. We do not have camps for training terrorists, and we do not have weapons that are a threat to international peace. The West learned that we severed all our relations with the IRA after it changed its course from an army fighting for the independence of Ireland to one of gangs terrorizing secure citizens, spreading chaos, and performing terrorist acts."

The AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper wrote that "since the West is prepared to cooperate directly with Libya and since Libya has nothing to hide, let us meet at a negotiating table, lay all the papers on the table and negotiate. Negotiation is the shortest way to peace. The issue of peace interests us, and we are a people with a call aimed toward peace, justice, freedom, and democracy.

"Thus, it is incumbent for us as Libyans to get in touch directly with America and Britain and negotiate."

The AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper wrote: The time has come to sit with France, Britain, and America, especially since they are now convinced of Libya's innocence in accordance with all charters and conventions and have learned that the problem between them and Libya is a fabricated one.

The newspaper concluded its article by writing that "if we have nothing to hide from the Western negotiator and the West has no interest in refusing to negotiate with us, we will negotiate with them while holding an olive branch in one hand and a rifle in the other, basing ourselves on [words indistinct] rich with glories and heroism, with a proud people on whose rock the invaders' legions broke in the past, to back us."

Tunisia

President Ben Ali, 'Arafat Discuss Issues

LD2407173792 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met at noon today with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who, following the audience, expressed his pleasure with the meeting; the important circumstance in which the Arab nation in general, and the Palestinian issue in particular, are passing; and, in light of the developments in Israel, the anticipated reactivation and continuation of the peace negotiations in accordance with what the U.S. secretary of state conveyed to the Palestinian delegation, and the holding of the next session of these negotiations in Washington.

Yasir 'Arafat made clear that he heard the views and thoughts of the head of state on all these issues, and raised with his excellency the issue of developments inside the occupied territories and the blessed Intifadah of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian president added that he briefed the head of state with the resolutions and important measures taken by the Palestinian leadership at their recent meeting in Tunis, both at the political and the organizational level. [passage omitted]

Trial of Islamic Fundamentalists Resumes

LD2807162292 Rabat MAP in English 1328 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Tunis, July 28 (MAP)—The trial of the 108 people involved in the "Islamist Terrorist Network" and connected to the Tunisian non-legalized Ennahdha Fundamentalist Movement resumed Monday at the military tribunal of Tunis.

The trial, which began last July 10, was postponed to July 27 to enable defense lawyer get through the files of the accused and contact them to prepare their defense.

The network, which was dismantled in 1990, is according to the bill of indictment a branch of the "Groupe Securitaire" of the Islamists involved in the toppling project (in 1987) of former President Bourguiba and arrested after November 7th when President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali took office.

They are charged with attempt to state internal security and could be sentenced to death. [sentence as received]

The network, dubbed "Talai' Al Fida" (Sacrifice Commandos) comprises in its ranks some thirty military men, police and customs agents including a score of runaways headed by Engineer Mohamed Habib Lassued.

Information Secretary Discusses Trial

PM2407095292 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 24 Jul 92 p 28

[Interview with Fathi Houidi, secretary of state for information, by Nabil al-Barad'i in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Barad'i] Could you briefly explain to us your understanding of the trial facing a number of Ennahdha movement members in Tunisia?

[Houidi] It is a criminal trial of terrorists who tried to wreak havoc in the country and to seize power by force of arms and terror.

[Al-Barad'i] But Ennahdha members say that it is a trial of opinions.

[Houidi] That is absolutely untrue. It is a trial for the sake of public rights. It is based on physical criminal incidents. I would like to reiterate what President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali said recently; namely, that Tunisia does not ban or try opinions. The proof that we do not do so is President Ben Ali's permission to the the so-called Ennahdha movement in the past to publish a newspaper to express its ideas and orientations.

[Al-Barad'i] But that newspaper, AL-FAJR, later ceased publication. Why?

[Houidi] Because the so-called Ennahdha movement exploited the newspaper to incite violence and subversion and to wreck the foundations of civil society in the country. I would like to remind people that it was President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali who saved the leader of the so-called Ennahdha movement, Rachid Ghanouchi, and a number of its other leaders from the gallows after death sentences were passed against them during former President Habib Bourguiba's era. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barad'i] So why has the situation developed to the point of a confrontation between the state and the Ennahdha movement?

[Houidi] Please allow me to correct a point in your question about the confrontation you mentioned. The confrontation is not between the state and the so-called Ennahdha movement. It is between Tunisian civil society and that terrorist movement, which wants to wreck the foundations of this society.

With regard to your question on why the situation has developed to the point of confrontation, I say that less than two months after their release and rescue from the gallows the leaders of the so-called Ennahdha movement began to conspire against Tunisia and its people by

planning and carrying out a number of terrorist operations with a view to terrifying people, undermining state security, and wrecking its institutions in preparation for seizing power stealthily and by force. They were evil enough to conspire against President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's life, when it was he who saved them from the gallows. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barad'i] Some Ennahdha movement defendants face charges that carry the death sentence. Do you believe that this punishment will be carried out if they are convicted?

[Houidi] The trial is clear and the judiciary will make their decision entirely on its own. [passage omitted]

*Ellouz Denies Charges

92AF0149A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
19 Jul 92 p 4

[Article by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi]

[Text] Two basic factors distinguished the military court session yesterday which is hearing charges brought against the Ennahdha movement for attempting to overthrow the regime. The first was the defense attorney's adoption of a more forceful stand on calling witnesses for the defense and public right; and the second was the testimonies of Habib Ellouz, the movement's spokesman, and of Maj. Salem Kardoun, accused of heading the military meeting at which it is said the details of the coup were planned.

The military court yesterday held the last of a series of sessions to hear testimony by elements of Ennahdha movement, before going into a recess next weekend and prior to hearing the defense arguments and the summation by the military attorney general. Like all the previous defendants, the Ennahdha elements who appeared before the court yesterday claimed in testimony that they were subjected to torture at various times.

Most prominent among those who appeared before the court were Habib Ellouz, previously chairman of the Ennahdha movement consultative council, later its official spokesman, and later, in June 1991, the movement's acting leader, following the arrest of Essadeq Chouro and the departure for abroad of Rachid Ghannouchi, the original leader.

Ellouz spoke at length before the court. First he dealt with the question of torture which, he said, he suffered. He then moved to discussing the political aspects of the case under consideration. He said, "The movement is striving to achieve freedom and democracy in the country..." through a plan called the "plan to impose freedom." The plan was laid down after the country's general elections, which he categorized as "dishonest elections."

Ellouz said that the Destourian Democratic Rally Party [DDRP] proposed the formation of a coalition with the Ennahdha movement in order to enter the election

contest with common candidates. But the movement rejected this, thus angering the ruling DDRP which went on to devise plans to exclude the movement entirely from the political field. He said the charges being brought against the movement now are part and parcel of that plan.

Ellouz said that he had earlier requested all Ennahdha movement members to shy away from all acts of violence, particularly following the operation carried out against the DDRP center in Babswiqah which injured one of the center's guards. He strongly denied any plans to attempt overthrowing the regime or to assassinate President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He stressed that all charges brought against the movement within this context aim at arousing public opinion against Ennahdha as a precursor to liquidating it.

Upon completion of Ellouz's testimony, the lawyers were surprised by the military attorney general's request that the court chairman summon a public right witness named Abdelkadir Eljadaydi. The court chairman agreed to call him immediately. The witness, who cried during his testimony, said in response to questions by the court chairman that he had told Habib Ellouz to renounce violence and to seek political action as a means of achieving the movement's goals, but Ellouz refused, saying, "we shall continue with the plan we have laid down."

At this point, the defense attorneys stood up in protest against allowing this witness to appear before the court and give his testimony, because their requests for defense witnesses, submitted to the court on several earlier occasions, had not received similar consideration by the court chairman.

Attorney Mohammed Chakroun, a well-known personality and a former minister in the first Tunisian government after independence, asked the court chairman to disclose the identity of the party which called for this witness to appear before the court. The court chairman's response was that he knew nothing about this matter, and that his appearance was at the attorney general's request. Commotion broke out in the courtroom at this moment. The lawyers stood, insisting that the witness, who had already left the courtroom, be recalled in order for cross-examination, particularly since he gave his testimony without the court establishing his identity.

The court chairman then ordered that he be returned, at which point controversy broke out between the lawyers and the attorney general, in which the court chairman took part. The controversy centered on the legality of summoning the witness and veracity of his statements, particularly since he was emotionally disturbed. The result was that the court chairman threw out this witness's testimony, considering also that Ellouz had denied under oath the witness's allegations in whole and in part.

Beyond this, however, Attorney Mohammed Chakroun asked the court to dismiss the case entirely, saying: "it is an extraordinary case that requires review by another

court." He also called for halting the Tunisian press campaign which he said is being waged against the defendants.

The other prominent witness whom the court heard was Maj. Salem Kardoun, a member of the land forces in the Tunisian Army. He is accused of heading a military meeting which allegedly was held in Barrakat al-Sahil area. During the meeting a detailed plan was laid down aimed at seizing power. Maj. Kardoun denied the charges, saying he was ready to face all those who levelled these allegations against him.

It is worth noting that yesterday's session was characterized by the attendance of a number of prominent Tunisian lawyers, including Mohammed Chakroun, al-Azhar al-Qarawi al-Shabi, Abdallah Abu-Bakr, and a French lawyer. Before the court session began, the French lawyer met with the court chairman Judge Bachir Kaddous. According to agreements between Tunisia and France, this lawyer has the right to defend one of the defendants. Additionally, there was a heavy foreign press attendance in yesterday's session. There were also two observers, one from the United States Embassy and another from the Canadian Embassy.

United Nations Team Inspects Agriculture Ministry

Ekeus Comments Following Inspection

JN2907131392 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT
29 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, July 29, INA—Chief of the U.N. Special Committee Rolf Ekeus last night said that he had discussed with the Iraqi side the modalities of inspecting the Agriculture Ministry in a manner satisfying both Iraq and the committee.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper after the inspection of the ministry last night, Mr. Ekeus said that he had agreed with the Iraqi side on several affairs to avoid future problems and difficulties.

He added that what had taken place in the past days happens when dealing with technical affairs and political inter-action and added that we are satisfied that affairs would go on properly in the future.

Mr. Ekeus further said that the United Nations had responded to the desire of Iraq and that Iraq had taken into consideration the special situation of the committee.

On the same level, representative of the Iraqi side Mr. Hussam Muhammed Amin told AL-JUMHURIYAH that the recent agreement reached between Iraq's representative to the U.N. and Mr. Ekeus would be (?considered) as the course for inspecting the ministry in accordance with [words indistinct] which did not allow inspectors from the countries that had participated in the aggression on Iraq to enter the ministry. The agreement also provided that the new inspection team should avoid the office of the minister of agriculture and his two assistants.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Ekeus

JN2907115992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received Mr. Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Special Commission. They discussed the visit to the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry. They also discussed relations between competent Iraqi authorities and the Special Commission affiliated with the UN Security Council.

The deputy prime minister said that Iraq had cooperated with the Special Commission regarding fulfillment of the obligations forced on it under Resolution 687. On several occasions—especially at the UN Security Council, when an Iraqi delegation visited New York in March—Iraq has made it clear that it rejects any behavior that compromises its sovereignty and dignity and threatens its internal security, 'Aziz declared.

The meeting was attended by the foreign minister, the minister of state for foreign affairs, and other officials.

Ekeus Departs; Spokesman Comments

JN2907134492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1309 GMT
29 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, left Baghdad today.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said that the inspection team, which arrived in Baghdad on 27 July in the company of Mr. Ekeus, inspected all floors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and its annexes yesterday and today without finding any documents or taking any pieces of paper out of the building to check.

The spokesman told INA that the details of the team's visit to the ministry building have been fully documented.

He indicated that Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Ekeus and his aides at noon yesterday. The members of the technical Iraqi team escorting the inspection team attended the meeting.

The spokesman said that the two sides discussed the timetable and modalities of the team's visit to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in accordance with the agreement reached between Iraq and the chairman of the Special Commission.

Further on Spokesman's Remarks

JN2907151392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has provided the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY with a (?detailed) report on the visit of the head of the Special Commission to Iraq and the visit of the team of experts to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. The following is the text of the report:

Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, executive chairman of the office of the Special Commission, arrived at al-Habbaniyah Airport at 0230 on Tuesday, 28 July 1992, accompanied by a team of experts and a number of his aides. At (?1115), Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with [words indistinct]. The meeting was attended by members of an Iraqi technical team. At the meeting, the two sides discussed the timetable and details of the team's visit to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, in accordance with the agreement reached between Iraq and the chairman of the Special Commission.

At 1530, the Special Commission's team of experts began its visit and examination [ittila'] of the ministry building. The visit lasted six hours, during which the team, accompanied by an Iraqi technical team, visited most floors of the ministry building and annexes, with the exception of the agriculture minister's office and the offices of the ministry's two under secretaries, in accordance with the agreement under which the visit took

place. At the end of the visit, the team did not take any pieces of paper or anything out of the building to check or inspect.

At 2130, the head of the team of experts requested that the team's visit to the remaining three floors be postponed until this morning, Wednesday 29 July 1992, because team members were tired and needed rest, as we were informed by the head of the team.

At 0900 today, 29 July 1992, the team of experts entered the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and visited and toured the three floors that it did not visit yesterday, as well as the building's courtyard. They found nothing and did not take any piece of paper or anything out of the building to check or inspect. The team left the building at 1130.

Meanwhile, Ekeus left Baghdad for Bahrain at 1530 today.

The spokesman affirmed that all details of the team's visit to the building have been documented.

'Millions' Demonstrate Against U.S., Sanctions

JN2807172792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] The masses all over Iraq staged massive and mammoth demonstrations today, vowing allegiance to leader and symbol Saddam Husayn and expressing their affection, loyalty, and willingness to make sacrifices for the sake of great Iraq.

Millions of Iraqis today roared thunderously, saying: "Bush, Bush, Listen Well. We All Love Saddam Husayn," declaring to the whole world that the people are rallying around their leader and that all Iraqis—the elderly and young, women and men—are ready to sacrifice their lives so that Iraq may remain strong, immune, and proud; so that its flag may remain fluttering aloft at the top of the staff, towering over the peaks of glory and pride; and so that the staff may continue to be held by the beloved leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

The millions of glorious Iraqis who took to the streets, courts, and public squares in Baghdad and the governorates expressed a limitless determination to defeat the enemies' conspiracies and machinations. They also reaffirmed their rejection of all lowly attempts to undermine Iraq's dignity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

In their slogans, the demonstrators poured their immense wrath on the United States and its evil allies. Likewise, they condemned the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression on great Iraq and its proud people. They expressed their enormous indignation and wrath at the U.S. Administration, foremost among which is criminal Bush, as well as their total rejection of his attempts to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs. They affirmed that the hand that attempts to penetrate Iraq's firm wall will undoubtedly be chopped off.

The demonstrators thundered and roared, shouting slogans wishing death on the imperialist-Atlantic alliance. They burned the U.S. flag as well as effigies of criminal Bush, leader of the alliance of evildoers in the world. The angry masses also shouted their condemnation of U.S. threats and also of the unfair economic blockade, which has denied Iraq's children access to milk and its elderly and sick access to medicine and food.

Correspondents and reporters from the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in Baghdad and the governorates said that the spontaneous, massive, and mammoth demonstrations that brought people together in central squares and main roads in Baghdad and the governorates expressed, through the slogans and graffiti, a total condemnation and denunciation of the crime of maintaining the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq and its steadfast people.

'Stringent Measures' During Protests

JN2807173192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—Correspondents of local, Arab, and international news agencies and other news media are watching the massive demonstrations staged in Baghdad and the governorates to express absolute allegiance to the Iraqi leadership led by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

The demonstrations centered in the al-Karkh and al-Rusafah on Baghdad's al-Rashid Street. Then, demonstrators headed for al-Tahrir Square, the demonstrators' assembly point, which is 3-4 km far from the Agriculture Ministry building.

The reporters present have noticed that stringent measures were taken to protect the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The political demonstrations condemned the reckless U.S. policy that is attempting to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs.

Saddam Welcomed in al-Dawr, Meets Officials

JN2807182992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has spent the day today inspecting the honorable sons of the great Iraqi people, the makers of miracles, the ones who foiled the magic of charlatans, and those who are hoisting the banner of challenge to the leaders of colonialism and world Zionism who capitalize on the people's blood.

The leader president, may God protect him, headed for the capital of al-Dawr District. He was received there by the district administrative officer, the party official, the district's police chief, senior officials, and the comrade members of the party.

Immediately after his arrival, the leader president began discussing the citizens' living conditions and services in this district. He was briefed on the state organs' services in this regard. The leader president gave his wise instructions to develop the citizens' living standards and the services rendered to them.

When the sons of our people knew that the leader was in the district center, the telephone did not stop ringing. The citizens asked to speak with the beloved man, with the father of the Iraqi family. They expressed their love for him and welcomed his arrival, explaining their problems to the man who only listens to God's commands and to the people's demands.

Once the masses of our valiant people learned of the leader's presence amongst them, they hurried to the streets in large numbers, thunderously shouting slogans, expressing the Iraqi people's love for their great leader and affirming the pledge of allegiance, which was substantiated by the martyrs' blood, to the leader, the march, the great objectives that were behind the launching of the great July revolution, and also to the eternal message carried by the Arab nation's vanguard represented by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the nation's knight leader President Saddam Husayn.

The motorcade of his excellency the leader president made its way with difficulty amidst the crowds, who were cursing the leaders of the aggression against the Iraqi people, the advocates of the blockade who want to see it maintained, led by criminal Zionist George Bush, the killer of children and burner of crops, who is denying Iraqis access to food and medicine and using this as a dirty means to achieve his evil personal objectives.

His excellency the president's car was stopped several times by the masses, who were roaring thunderously, shouting a new slogan, saying: "O Saddam, Trample Each and Every Agent and Spy." By this, the masses confirmed that traitors, treacherous people, agents, and spies have no room within the ranks of the zealous Iraqis.

His excellency the leader president stepped from the car. He then climbed on top of the car to salute his people's sons and to reciprocate their love, loyalty, and pledge. It is a hand that will remain extended to the people, granting them, God willing, goodness and blessings and urging them to wage a jihad to vindicate His religion; revive the glory of His nation, the nation of the holy Koran; and build edifices of happiness for the great Iraqi people. The leader will continue to work hand in hand with the masses. They will walk the same path to achieve the same objective in order to realize goodness, freedom, and dignity for Iraq; unity and liberation for the Arab nation; and peace, justice, and equality for all mankind.

In remembrance of the day on which his excellency the leader president made a midnight journey during the days of the glorious struggle against dictatorship and anti-Arabism in 1959 after attacking the tyrants then with his machine gun, an attack which prompted the

cliques of treason to chase him while he was wounded, yet forging ahead and carrying within him the concerns of a great people and the hopes of an age-old nation—a matter which caused him to cross the river to the other shore—in remembrance of that day, his excellency the leader president swam to the other side of the river, along with a crowd of the great people, from the same place he crossed to the other shore on that day in 1959.

It was a crossing between two eras, two visions, and two courses. Today, it was the crossing to the shores of safety, the shores of dignity, toward a horizon filled with light, cherished by God's care and gleaming with stars of hope for all good people.

Recruitment Department Calls New Conscripts

JN2807154892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1420 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] The General Recruitment Department has called on the second batch of persons born in 1974 to report to their recruitment centers as of 1 August. This must be accomplished within 20 days. This came in a statement issued by the department. The following is the text of the statement:

First, with reference to our statement issued on 31 December 1991, the General Recruitment Department calls upon the persons whose names are included in the second batch of people born in 1974 to report to their recruitment centers during the period of 1-20 August 1992 to have physical exams and prepare for military service.

Second, this statement covers those born in 1974 as well as those born in other years as follows:

A. Those deemed to be excess when the list that included the first batch of recruits born in 1974 was prepared.

B. Students who have not completed intermediate schooling for the school year 1991-92.

C. College graduates who graduated in the first term of the school year 1991-92.

D. Graduates of industrial, agricultural, and trade preparatory schools as well as graduates of all institutes and centers that provide equivalent training for the first term of the year 1991-92.

E. Graduates of intermediate schools and of schools providing equivalent training for the first term in the year 1991-92 who were not accepted for preparatory education in the year 1992-93.

F. Draft dodgers and those who no longer have excuses as well as those who are no longer engaged in studies for whatever reason, regardless of the year in which they were born.

Third, those covered by this statement must bring the following documents when they report to their recruitment centers:

A. A civil status identity card and a certificate of Iraqi citizenship or copies thereof.

B. A graduation document showing the graduate achieved an average of two points.

C. An occupation certificate.

D. Four recent photos for those who have never obtained a military service document.

Fourth, dates for beginning military service will be fixed later. Recruits will be informed of these dates through their recruitment centers.

Fifth, legal measures will be taken against those who fail to report to their recruitment centers during the period specified in the statement.

[Signed] Director of the General Recruitment Department, holding the rank of staff major general

Oil Products Said Available at 'Usual Levels'

JN2407125692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Excerpt] The director general of the oil products distribution firm has emphasized the availability of oil products at the usual levels needed to satisfy the requirements of the domestic market. In a statement to AL-QADISIYAH published today, he said gasoline is available at filling stations. There are 100,000 cylinders in excess of the needs of domestic consumption and special vehicles have been set aside to transport butane gas to distribution outlets, he added.

Meanwhile, the director of oil products distribution in the central region has said that at present there is no shortage of fuel and there will be none in the future. He indicated that all gas filling stations have been ordered to stay open around the clock. [passage omitted]

PUK's Talabani Interviewed on Kurdish Leadership

PM2407144492 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 22-28 Jul-92 pp 25-27

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK, by Najm 'Abd-al-Karim; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Karim] How long will you continue to seek the leadership?

[Talabani] I do not believe in individual leadership; I believe in collective leadership. I believe in bodies that assume leadership. The Kurdish people's experience has proved this conclusion. We in Kurdistan believe in the civilized method pursued by world states. This is why we entered the elections, in which results were 49 percent versus 51 percent for the competing parties. On that basis, the majority will be led by a party leader and the minority led by the opposition party leader. As for the idea you mentioned, of seeking leadership—as though I were being

compared to Hitler or 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim—I do not think about it. All those who have worked with me know that I do not have any ideas of being the number one man. The Constituent Assembly of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] had no principal leader for several years. It was led by the assembly's members equally. But when we moved to operate from within the country, responsibilities were allocated, and I was entrusted with the post of PUK secretary general. So I am not seeking individual leadership.

['Abd-al-Karim] From my conversations with some Kurdish brothers, I discovered that you have lost your credibility among many of them. Some of them say: He is an experienced politician, and this makes him incline toward political maneuvering. What is your reply?

[Talabani] No one is infallible. Only those who do not work make no mistakes. So I made mistakes in the past and will make mistakes in the future, because I do work. What is important is that the mistake not be grave or irreparable and that it not continue. I pursue a political line drawn up for me by a leadership and an organization. So I cannot use my own view alone; all my steps are taken in accordance with preexamined views. Perhaps you, as a journalist, will be very happy to know certain secrets which I will reveal for the first time: I did not want to go to Baghdad to talk with Saddam Husayn. I adopted a stern position against it. But the decision of the majority of the Union's leadership compelled me to go to meet with Saddam Husayn, despite my profound abhorrence of him. So I obeyed the decision and went to Baghdad. Even when statements were issued, condemning my visit and my negotiations with Saddam Husayn, I preferred to remain silent. But I am revealing this now in reply to those who say that I lack credibility. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Karim] Leaving aside political maneuverings, I would like a frank answer from you about the disagreement between you and Mas'ud Barzani.

[Talabani] Disagreement is natural, because we are two different parties. We might agree on some political issues and have differing views on other questions. If we agree on everything, we will become one party.

['Abd-al-Karim] But you were one party.

[Talabani] Many organizations produce other organizations that are different in terms of ideology, strategy, and tactics.

['Abd-al-Karim] But the disagreement between you reached the point of regrettable bloody confrontations.

[Talabani] That is true. But—and I say it openly—we now agree on a number of matters, and we differ on certain other matters.

['Abd-al-Karim] What are the most notable points of disagreement between you?

[Talabani] We differ on certain detailed questions concerning the domestic situation. We have a view with

regard to general national interests, on which we are almost agreed, despite the Iraqi Government's numerous and extensive attempts to divide us with a view to incite us against each other. But we were aware of Saddam's attempts and thwarted them. As I said, ultimately we are in the same trench, confronting the same enemy—I mean Saddam and his government.

[Abd-al-Karim] Competition over the Kurds' leadership through the elections could cause sinister consequences. Do you believe that it would be more correct for you and Barzani to stop competing for the leadership?

[Talabani] I favor that view. I also believe that discussion of the leadership question can be harmful. I also believe that the idea of the sole leader is wrong in the first place. In my view, the right way is to conduct elections so as to have a majority party and minority party, not to search for a leader or president.

[Abd-al-Karim] How can that be done?

[Talabani] I believe that the next elections to be held in Kurdistan will be better than the previous ones, so the PUK's results will be better than its previous results. [passage omitted]

[Abd-al-Karim] Is it true that after the elections the Kurds to have an observer in the United Nations and political offices in the major world capitals?

[Talabani] I never heard that.

[Abd-al-Karim] So what do you call the office opened for you in Turkey?

[Talabani] We are bound to the Turkish brothers by ties of respect. We have an office in their capital which the Turkish Government treats with respect. There are special reasons for that. I do not think that we will seek to open offices similar to our office in Turkey in any world state.

[Abd-al-Karim] It is said that you have been advised by world powers to unite with your Arab brothers in Iraq so that you will not be seen as seeking to separate and so that you will not anger the Turks and Iranians, who have millions of Kurds who might follow your example. What truth is there in this?

[Talabani] As is well known, we consult all regional and European states and the United States. What they always tell us emphasizes the need to safeguard the Iraqi entity and to maintain fruitful cooperation among Iraqi opposition parties and regional and friendly states. They have always advised us to work to unite the opposition.

[Abd-al-Karim] To unite only the Kurdish opposition?

[Talabani] No... the Iraqi Kurdish-Turkoman-Assyrian opposition, not just the Kurdish opposition. They also advise us of the need to strengthen relations among all Iraqi opposition groups both inside and outside the country. [passage omitted]

[Abd-al-Karim] Despite the Iraqi regime's boycott of the Kurdistan region, you have opened several television stations. How did you manage to bring the equipment to build these stations?

[Talabani] Not just television stations. There is also the press. And internal industry has been revived. The Kurdistan Democratic Party has more than the three stations at al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, and Dahuk. The PUK has a huge television network in the cities. And it has a 15 kilowatt transmitter covering the entire Karkuk area and some areas of Iran. This central station transmits for six hours, which can be increased according to circumstances. [passage omitted]

[Abd-al-Karim] Do the Kurds' elections in Kurdistan mean that there is a state within a state?

[Talabani] They are elections for the Iraqi Kurds, and that does not mean separation from the state's centralism. But we are not with Saddam Husayn or his regime.

Rabin Visits North, Comments on Security

TA2807151292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] The United States is working to get Syria out of Lebanon before the elections there. Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, said today during his first visit to the northern border since he assumed his post. Referring to reports that Hizballah has been evacuating its bases in the Lebanese al-Biqa', Rabin said that any change in Lebanon might have an effect on our operations. Our correspondents Hayim Horowitz and 'Ido Baum report from the north:

[Begin recording] [Baum] Yitzhaq Rabin arrived today on his first tour of the northern border in his capacity as prime minister and defense minister, accompanied by the chief of staff and senior officers. It is not my impression that Iran and Syria are making efforts to curb Hizballah activities in south Lebanon, Rabin said. On our part, he said, we will continue to secure the north, sustain the security zone, and observe our commitments to the SLA [South Lebanese Army]. Rabin was asked whether the evacuation of Hizballah bases in the Lebanese al-Biqa' over the past several days would have an effect on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA activities.

[Rabin] Look, anything that changes in Lebanon has repercussions from which conclusions must be drawn regarding our ways of operation.

[Baum] Referring to the upcoming elections in Lebanon, Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel has no influence on what takes place there.

[Rabin] We are experienced and know just how limited we are when it comes to our ability to dictate to others. I believe that the United States is working to get the Syrians to withdraw from Beirut before the elections, as

part of the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. I do not know if it will succeed or not. We are not part of the elections in Lebanon.

[Horowitz] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, who accompanied Rabin, said that while Syria is trying to prevent the residents of south Lebanon from taking part in the elections, Israel is interested in having the south Lebanese feel that they are Lebanese residents for all intents and purposes.

[Lubrani] We are in the process of letting the residents of the security zone know that we are aware of their desires and problems. We will, in fact, do anything we can within the framework of our abilities, which are very limited, as was stated before.

[Baum] Prime Minister Rabin also said that the defense establishment is following developments in the Persian Gulf. In essence, this is an American affair. It seems to me, however, that lessons have been drawn from the Gulf war, Rabin said. [end recording]

Budget for Territories Enterprises 'Exhausted'

TA2807145792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1400 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] The Investments Center director today informed the industry and trade minister that the center can approve no more requests for government-approved enterprise status from either new or expanding plants in Judaea and Samaria, since the budget earmarked for these areas has been exhausted.

Our economic affairs correspondent, Menahem Friedman, notes that in the first seven months of 1992, the Investments Center granted 55 permits defining plants as government-approved enterprises at a total cost of \$81 million.

Army Continues State Property Repossessions

Repossesses Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks

NC2907113992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1030 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] The Lebanese Army continued to implement the the Council of Ministers' decision to repossess its property. AFP today cited a Hizballah security official as saying that the party completed its evacuation of the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks in Ba'labakk. The source added that the party's weapons and equipment were removed and that its fighters withdrew.

It was observed, however, that the Lebanese Army did not repossess the barracks until noon. According to eyewitnesses, Hizballah's roadblock was removed from the entrance to the barracks.

For the first time in years, the spotlights that used to light the barracks from an adjacent hill during the night remained unlit on Tuesday-Wednesday night.

Denies Working With 'Certain Sides'

NC2907091292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Army Command's Guidance Directorate on 29 July]

[Text] Some media reports stated that the Lebanese Army has formed committees with certain sides to repossess some state property or to negotiate the issue of receiving some of their weapons and military equipment.

The Lebanese Army Command wishes to affirm that these reports are completely false and that the Army is executing the Cabinet decision in accordance with the rules of implementation purely from the military aspect, without returning to the logic of establishing security by pleasing all sides.

General Labor Federation Strike Observed

NC2907064892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon
in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Under the slogan: In Order To Give Priority to Addressing the Stifling Economic Crisis, Lebanon today responded to the General Labor Federation's call for a one-day strike. All public and private establishments, banks, the Bank of Lebanon, ports, shops, and the al-Zahrani and Tripoli oil refineries are closed today. Work at Beirut Airport will stop between 1100 and 1300. Only hospitals, pharmacies, and bakeries are excluded. [passage omitted]

Most political parties expressed support for the strike. The General Labor Federation stressed the strike's peaceful nature. It expressed readiness for a serious dialogue with the state directly after the strike. It holds the government responsible for intensifying such moves in the near future.

Federation Warns of 'Intensified Action'

NC2907102692 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] The General Labor Federation issued a statement today saying that the Lebanese people again express their strong willpower and categorical rejection of the programmed policy of impoverishing the people and destroying the economy pursued by the government and those with huge amounts of capital. Lebanese workers and people of all factions and areas recorded another day of great struggle. This strike is a free and earnest referendum opposing the government's social policy and economic performance. The strike represents honest and enlightened support for the General Labor Federation's general program and the national trade union congress.

The statement called on the government to study today's public activities and those of the past, moves that reject its policies. It stressed the need for the government to perform its duties and to quickly and seriously address day-to-day living conditions and give them priority. The statement called on the government to positively respond to the strike so that the General Labor Federation can open a serious and responsible dialogue with it, without which the General Labor Federation and all alienated Lebanese will intensify their efforts through the available democratic means. It holds the government and all concerned authorities nationally, economically, and socially responsible for what may result from such intensified action.

The General Labor Federation stated that its Executive Council will continue to follow up on developments and act accordingly.

Al-Khatib Announces Candidate Registration Dates

NC2707174192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib announced the dates for registering candidates for the parliamentary elections. Candidates may register beginning today and continue to do so until 15 days before the elections.

Speaking at a news conference today, al-Khatib said that the government and the Interior Ministry will begin consultations with the United Nations and the multinational forces this week to discuss the procedures for voting in the occupied southern areas.

Minister al-Khatib said that before 5 August the Interior Ministry will announce the polling districts at which refugees may vote.

Nasrallah Cited on Elections, Security Strip

NC2907071592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah affirmed the option our ulema and

mujahidin have always upheld: the option of resistance, despite the large number of sacrifices the Jabal 'Amil area already has made.

His eminence was speaking during public celebrations yesterday afternoon organized by the society of Jabal 'Amil ulemas marking the third anniversary of the kidnapping of the shaykh of prisoners, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, in Jibshit. The celebration was attended by political and public delegations.

His eminence stated: If we add up all the losses incurred by resisting the Israeli enemy—that is, the dead, wounded, detainees, and destroyed homes—it would be very little compared to what we sacrificed as a Lebanese people during the mire of the internal war.

Nasrallah said he questions whether the security strip is considered state property. He also wonders whether the Lebanese Government, which has been flexing its muscles, will try to repossess its property in the occupied strip or await the results of long years of negotiations conducted under the shadow of Israeli disregard for Lebanon. Will the head of state keep the promise he made a while ago that Lebanon, government and people, would be transformed into resistance?

The Hizballah secretary general said we have not decided to participate in the parliamentary elections out of a desire to assume a status, position, or authority. This was offered to us in the past, but we refused due to the approach that was used. The problem rested with the method. We now have decided to join the elections, because we feel we need to fortify this option in all positions. We must work to serve our people wherever they are.

Fadlallah Remarks on Fragmentation Noted

NC2507080892 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic* 0530 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah believes that the current stage Lebanon is going through is different from previous stages. What was banned in the past may now become acceptable. His eminence addressed those who speak negatively about the unity of the country. He stated: If fragmentation occurs now, Lebanon will be erased from the world map, and every part of it will be annexed to a specific country.

Fadlallah addressed the Lebanese, stating: If your unity lies in Lebanon and if this country concerns you, you must know that the world previously supported positions not to divide any country. You also need to know that the current stage indicates the existence of an international situation that could treat the fragmentation of Lebanon with nonchalance, as is happening in Yugoslavia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Amal Supports Hizballah on Parliamentary Elections

NC2607064692 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic* 0530 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Islamic Amal Movement leader Husayn stated that there are no differences with Hizballah on the issue of parliamentary elections and that everyone will abide with whatever the supreme jurisconsult [Iranian spiritual leader 'Ali Khamene'i] decides.

Al-Musawi stated: We are at the service of all honest people and are ready to cooperate and become allies with all those who have proven their rejection of Israel, the United States, and their agents and supported the resistance.

He added: The main criteria for the possibility of our cooperation and alliance with any side is rejecting Israel and the United States and their schemes in this region.

Israelis Bombard Kafr Rumman Heights

NC2907083592 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic* 0800 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] The Israelis bombarded the Kafr Rumman heights with mortar artillery and smoke bombs from positions in al-Tuhrah and the al-Suwayda' hills at 0700 today. Israeli forces last night fired flares over Kafr Rumman, Kafr Tibnit and the surrounding forests.

'Terrorist' Bases in South 'Still' Targets

NC2607080892 *(Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon* 0730 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] The Israeli morning newspaper HA'ARETZ cites security sources as saying that the terrorist bases in the south still constitute military targets and that these targets will continue to be attacked more intensively than in the past.

Consequently, we repeat our advice to the residents of villages north of the border area to keep away from terrorist bases and arms hideouts for their safety and the safety of their families, who regrettably are being used by Hizballah as a shield against reprisals.

Buwayz Interviewed on Peace Talks, Elections

PM2407091292 *London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic* 24 Jul 92 pp 18-19

[Interview with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ajjaj] Will you participate in the Rome meetings?

[Buwayz] The Rome meeting will be held at the level of ambassadors or delegation members. Each state will have a delegation headed by a diplomat. It will not be at foreign-minister level. So Lebanon, which originally agreed to enter the peace process, will participate in the

same manner as the other Arab states involved in the talks in Rome, which complement the Washington talks.

[Ajjaj] What about the multilateral meetings?

[Buwayz] We still maintain our previous position with regard to the multilateral meetings. This, because we believe that the multilateral meetings are a way of realizing a state of peace that has not materialized yet and whose achievement we are not certain of yet. Besides, the multilateral meetings represent a price for Israel which must be paid one day, so Israel must first specify the commitments which it will fulfill. In addition, to ask us to participate in the multilaterals is like asking us to build a house whose features we do not know yet. And I must point out here that some of the states which previously agreed to such participation have now adopted our position. This is what we heard at the Arab League meeting, since some of the teams attending admitted that that this attendance was premature.

[Ajjaj] Do you believe that Rabin will keep his promises to negotiate everything?

[Buwayz] I do not much believe in the Israeli Government rushing toward a just and comprehensive peace. I believe that the criterion here is how international legitimacy deals with the Israeli Government. So if it is dealt with seriously and firmly, I believe that the present Israeli Government is more aware of international factors.

[Ajjaj] What about the invitation which Rabin addressed to the leaders of Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, or his visits to the three Arab states at your invitation?

[Buwayz] Diplomatic meetings are just a means to political ends. So if these meetings do not proceed from steadfast intentions or binding general principles, I believe that they will remain without substance. Israel must clearly announce its commitment to the peace conference's principles in terms of implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and in terms of the land for peace principle. Then such meetings would be useful and constructive.

[Ajjaj] You said that you will not meet with U.S. State Secretary James Baker outside Lebanon. Do you still maintain your position?

[Buwayz] I am not accustomed to backtracking on positions which proceed from my belief that Lebanon should not be dealt with differently from others. The factors that prevented such visits in the past, including security conditions and the hostage issue, have now disappeared and there is absolutely no justification for not dealing with Lebanon according to the rules that respect national dignity and sovereignty.

[Ajjaj] Will Baker's tour of the region achieve its desired objectives?

[Buwayz] We do not know what new proposals Secretary Baker is bringing with him. But if this tour, which is taking place after the Israeli elections, includes a degree of firmness and seriousness in urging Israel to recognize the peace conference's principles—that is, the land for

peace principle, implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, and the letters of assurances letters—it could impart a new boost.

[Ajjaj] Is there anything new with regard to Resolution 425?

[Buwayz] I say to those connected with the peace conference that Resolution 425, which enjoys independence and clarity, could, if implemented, grant the peace conference the credibility and impetus that could impart a boost to it. [passage omitted]

[Ajjaj] Do you believe that international, regional, and domestic conditions are favorable for holding parliamentary elections in Lebanon at present, especially in view of the fears of a security explosion that might threaten the stability that Lebanon is enjoying?

[Buwayz] The election issue is not linked to the security issue. I am confident that, whether or not the elections take place, there will be no security explosion. This, because the situation is stable, and complete calm and stability prevail in Lebanon. If we look at last year, we will find that the level of security in Lebanon is similar to that in any other state in the world. In fact it might be better. I have just returned from the Brazilian capital and can confirm that the situation in Beirut is much better than the situation in a number of Latin American capitals.

[Ajjaj] Apart from the link between the elections and conditions in Lebanon, do you not believe that the Lebanese do not unanimously support the elections?

[Buwayz] The Lebanese elections are a political issue, and all Lebanese are in favor of elections in principle. They want these parliamentary elections to take place. But the disagreement is over the date, over the timing, over issues which should be tackled before the elections—such as the evacuees' return, the nature of the electoral law, the demarcation of constituencies and governorates, prior organization of the media, and so forth. I sincerely believe that they are very ordinary problems which exist in every state. I doubt whether any state in the world has no differences over electoral laws, the demarcation of constituencies, and the number of deputies. So, while admitting that there are some disagreements in Lebanon over the election issue, I believe it is wrong to link this with the past war or to refer back to past conditions and situations.

[Ajjaj] But there have been reservations from important international circles, such as Washington, about holding the elections.

[Buwayz] I do not believe that there is a special U.S. position on the elections. The position is linked to some Lebanese. The U.S. position says: Why hold the elections, when the Lebanese are not unanimous about them?

[Ajjaj] Do you not believe that to hold the elections before the Israeli forces' withdrawal from al-Biq'a' disregards the date specified by the al-Ta'if agreement for the elections?

[Buwayz] That is untrue. The al-Ta'if agreement did not include any date or timing for the elections at all. All that the agreement says is that the next elections will be held at the governorate level, not the district level. This is the only sentence in the agreement about the elections. As for the date of the elections, that is for the Chamber of Deputies and the government to decide.

[Ajjaj] What about the Syrian forces' withdrawal, which some Lebanese circles are using as a pretext to demand the postponement of the elections?

[Buwayz] The al-Ta'if agreement gave the Lebanese state a period of time to deploy its forces and rebuild them in order to extend its authority over Lebanese territory. Thus this clause suggests the the Syrian forces be redeployed toward the al-Biq'a' area and that the Lebanese and Syrian Governments hold talks on where these forces should be stationed. These are the stipulations of the al-Ta'if agreement. I believe that the Lebanese state's efforts are making progress in that connection. From now until September the state might be able, with its own forces, to extend its authority throughout Lebanese territory.

[Ajjaj] Do you believe that Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati's visit to Beirut helped to cool the situation in the south? How would you assess it?

[Buwayz] The Iranian foreign minister's visit was intended to deal with numerous issues, as you know. Official Iranian-Lebanese relations were nonexistent. Such relations did not materialize between two states. Velayati's visit took place after my visit to the Iranian capital, Tehran, some eight months ago to further a new approach to dealings between the two countries. It centers on official and diplomatic dealings. In the past Iran dealt directly with certain groups in Lebanon, ignoring the state completely. In this connection I believe that Lebanese-Iranian relations are improving overall. Dr. Velayati's visit was linked with the hostage issue in some way or another. So I can say that the understanding between the two states contributed a great deal in that regard. His visit was also concerned with regional coordination and assessment of the political phase. This issue is progressing. Another issue remains, namely, the difference between a section of Lebanon and Iran over the resistance's methods. Some people in Lebanon believe that the resistance is part of a political strategy of the state, and that the resistance must be in harmony with the state's policy and must lie within the context of its views. Others adopt a more emotional and independent view, perhaps revolving around the absolute resistance process. Perhaps the difference in this connection still exists between Iran, which supports resistance groups in the South, and the view of the Lebanese state, which believes that in order for the resistance to play a useful role it must take account of methods, timing, conditions, and place and read and interact with the states' policies.

[Ajjaj] So attempts are being made to end the excuse for Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon by curbing Hizballah operations, especially since these operations are one of Israel's declared reasons for not implementing Resolution 425.

[Buwayz] We have some reservations about Hizballah's policy in general in terms of how it deals with the Lebanese scene. However, in this connection I am among those who say that no one should regard someone else as the reason for the occupation. The occupation preceded Hizballah and the resistances. The resistance is the result of the occupation, so let us deal with the reason before we deal with the outcome. [passage omitted]

Commentary Warns Against 'Delusion' of Peace

NC2507124492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Station commentary: "Baker's Tour and the Delusions of Peace"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Some may perhaps believe that this direct U.S. presence in the region—especially after the Zionist Labor Party won elections and formed the government—is a clear indication of the serious efforts being exerted to realize some progress in the settlement process, proceeding from new bases and concepts that, to a large degree, reflect the correct viewpoints of Arab parties. Perhaps some believe this and delude themselves that Washington is exerting extensive efforts to restore things to their correct order and to restore rights to their legitimate owners. This is so especially since the current U.S. Administration, as some claim, is the first administration free of Jewish pressures through the active lobby in the United States.

It is clear that Washington has interests and aspirations in the region that do not differ from one administration to the other. Israel is a crucial and necessary element to U.S. interests and policies regarding the Middle East. Therefore, we always notice confirmation of and concern for its total and absolute strategic superiority and security. In addition, Israel receives aid from all sides.

Whoever believes that the issue of the \$10-billion loan guarantees is a point of contention in U.S.-Zionist relations is mistaken. Therefore, whoever bases his ideas on this issue to reach the conclusion that Israel's position is changing and that it no longer plays the same role in U.S. strategy is also wrong.

Despite all the intimidation, analyses, and conclusions, Israel continues to be the spoiled child who is promised protection from the whole West. Western media continue to present an exemplary picture of the Western bias toward Israel, which is portrayed as a democratic, humanitarian, and civilized oasis in arid and backward surroundings. It is presented as an example of an oppressed and persecuted society, which through its belief and adherence to its rights, achieved victory and defended its mere existence against the idea of annihilation.

The reality of Israel is seen through Western eyes as the victory of the oppressed and tortured entity. Therefore the reality of Israel, from the Western viewpoint, represents victory for the oppressed and tortured person. This

is how Israel's image is presented in the West and this is how it continues to quell the intifadah and render thousands of the sons of the occupied territories homeless. When Israel invades Lebanese territories, kills innocent citizens, and destroys their homes and livelihoods, it is presented as the strong defender of the Western values of freedom, democracy, and liberalism.

In this way, the West has become used to feeling elated every time it hears reports about Zionist attacks. The Western conscience hails these attacks, categorizing them as part of the struggle in the face of Arab and Islamic barbarism.

This is where the delusion about the issue of peace comes in. What is the picture the West has, specifically the United States, regarding the problems of the region? If the West does not have the subjective image and balanced evaluation of the dimensions of the problems,

what can we expect from this continuous U.S. shuttling in search of what they call saving the opportunities for peace?

The most important opportunity for peace lies in fully and comprehensively reevaluating the scope of the problem, not in ignoring the reasons for the problem. These reasons can be summarized as follows: Clear and outright aggression, usurpation and occupation of the land of others, rendering a whole nation homeless, and constant threats to create and make problems in the heart of the region.

Such an evaluation seems essential so that we can expect reasonable and acceptable initiatives whose serious objective is to realize peace. Apart from that, what is happening is a pileup of delusions that conceal the problem and obscure vision.

Council of Ministers Holds Meeting 28 Jul*JN2807133492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Jul 92*

[Text] The Council of Ministers met at 1100 today under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. A general political review was carried out during this meeting. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' explained the important results of the confrontation states' foreign ministers meeting in Damascus in terms of attaining a united position on the forthcoming stage of the peace talks. He also explained the results of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit and his talks in Damascus.

The results of the higher Syrian-Saudi joint committee meetings in Damascus for promoting fraternal cooperation between both countries were also reviewed at the meeting.

The Council of Ministers also listened to reports about the work of the services, economic, and cultural committees. The council discussed several organizational policies dealing with coordination among the ministries, departments, institutions, and legal issues dealing with the contract systems. After this, the council discussed the draft laws and decrees listed on its agenda and topics that were referred to it and made the appropriate decisions.

Commentary on 'Comprehensive' Arab-Israeli Solution*JN2807091392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 27 Jul 92*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Among the various conclusions drawn from the Damascus meeting of the Arab foreign ministers directly concerned with the peace talks is one stressing that the Arabs can, even under the most difficult circumstances, unify their word and stand toward their rights regardless of the methods used by the enemy to divide them and lure them into traps of isolation and discord. The Damascus meeting clearly announced to the whole world that the Arabs are very serious in their quest for peace; that they wish to rid the Middle East of all forms of violence and conflict; that they adhere to the peace initiative launched by the U.S. Administration last year; and that they support the UN resolutions and the principle of trading land for peace.

In the meantime, the Arab foreign ministers who participated in the recent Damascus meeting did not hide from anyone in the region or elsewhere the fact that they understand peace based on comprehensiveness and justice; that they understand the provisions of the international resolutions as they are without any misinterpretation by this or that side; that peace should include all fronts from Jerusalem to the Golan and from Gaza to southern Lebanon; and that there can be no bargaining over the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights whether inside or outside the occupied territory. The Palestine question is the crux of the conflict and all

regional wars in the second half of this century erupted only for the sake of the Palestinian territory and the people of Palestine.

Following the announcement of these constants as approved by the Arabs at the Damascus meeting, we do not think that anyone in this world can ask what the Arabs want or question their enthusiasm for peace. The Arabs are owners of a right that was endorsed by international resolutions and recognized by the big world powers. They are not ready to accept anything that falls short of this because any encroachment on this right will mean supporting aggression and encouraging the aggressor to ask for more and to tenaciously adhere to occupation.

The forthcoming peace talks all are seeking will fully reveal whether there is a real change in the Israeli position equivalent to the change of leadership in Tel Aviv. They will also reveal if the Israeli side is really ready to acknowledge Arab rights and comply with the international will in achieving peace based on justice. The talks, to which the Arabs will go, along with the constants as announced by the Damascus meeting will be the real test. They will stick to a unified position and a unified will, eagerly seeking the success of the peace talks and the realization of a just and comprehensive solution. They will adhere to their rights to the end no matter what direction the new Israeli policy takes.

Defense Minister Visits Troops in Lebanon*JN2807063592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Jul 92*

[Text] At the instructions of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces and president of the Republic, General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister—accompanied by General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces—visited our forces operating in fraternal Lebanon.

The commander of the troops met Gen. Talas. An honor guard saluted Gen. Talas amid a storm of applause and shouts for the life of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its secretary general, the leader of the nation and symbol of its loftiness, struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

Gen. Talas gave a speech. At the outset, he conveyed the president's greetings to the brother fighters. He also reviewed developments in the Arab arena, stressing the principled constants of Syrian policy, which is based on adherence to Arab rights and achieving a just and comprehensive solution without relinquishing one iota of Arab soil.

Gen. Talas stressed the importance of preparedness at all times and upgrading combat capability to face all challenges to our nation. He also reiterated Syria's continued support for fraternal Lebanon to enhance its march of security and accord.

Amid overwhelming feelings of love and loyalty, the brother fighters asked Gen. Talas to convey their heartfelt condolences to President al-Asad on the death of his mother. They stated that a mother who gave birth to a leader as great as President al-Asad will always be cherished by the masses.

Gen. Talas and his delegation visited the residence of late Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah to offer condolences on the death of Lebanon's great man. Gen. Talas wrote in the condolences record, praising the traits of the deceased and his honorable national and pan-Arab stands.

DPRK Foreign Minister Arrives 27 Jul

JN2707162192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and

his delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister, ranking Foreign Ministry officials, and Pak Yong-fun, the charge d'affaires of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Damascus, and the embassy's staff met the Korean guest at Damascus International Airport.

In a statement to SANA, Kim Yong-nam stressed outright the DPRK Government's support for the Syrian Arab people in their struggle for the just cause.

He added: We are connected with Syria by good friendly relations, and we struggle in the same trench for the sake of a just cause.

Kim Young-nam stated that this visit has come to realize the bilateral harmony of views through the talks he will have with the foreign minister. He added: We also want to discuss coordination before the 10th summit of the Nonaligned Movement with the aim of unifying the movement's ranks and preserving its principles.

Afghanistan

Further on Visit of Iranian Delegation

Meeting With Farid Noted

LD2807084592 Tehran IRNA in English 0611 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and the Pacific Alla'edin Boroujerdi Monday in Kabul voiced Iran's readiness to bolster mutual cooperation in all fields.

Boroujerdi made the remark in a meeting with Prime Minister of Afghanistan 'Abdul Sabor Farid.

Turning to Iran's support for the Mojahedin during their fight against the former Kabul regime, Farid said that the Islamic Republic of Iran proved it is a friend of the Afghan people and expressed hope that friendly ties will continue.

In another meeting with Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Boroujerdi said Iran was ready to put the 14-year experiences of its Islamic Revolution at the disposal of the Afghan Government.

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud said that arrangements have been made to restore calm in Kabul so that appropriate circumstances would be prepared for reconstruction of the country.

More on Farid-Boroujerdi Meeting

LD2807214192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Brother Ostad 'Abdul Sabur Farid, prime minister of the interim Islamic government of Afghanistan, met yesterday afternoon with the high-ranking delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, headed by esteemed A. Boroujerdi, deputy foreign minister. Present at the meeting were (Qariborrahman Sayeed), head of the prime minister's press department, and Mohammad Hasan Mohyeddin-Najafi, ambassador and representative extraordinary of Iran in Kabul. The high-ranking delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed congratulations on the victory of the Afghan Islamic revolution and promised the help of his government in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Ostad 'Abdul Sabur Farid then expressed gratitude for Iran's assistance with refugees during the 14 years of jihad. He emphasized the further strengthening of relations between the two countries. The meeting also discussed topics concerning the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the development of cultural, economic, and trade relations.

Delegation Departs Kabul

LD2807190192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Headed by Alla'eddin Boroujerdi, Iranian deputy minister of foreign affairs, the high-ranking delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which came to Kabul on 26 July for an official and friendly visit and for talks and meetings with official authorities of Iran, left Kabul this afternoon for Iran.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Hamed Karzai and Dr. Jahl Shams, deputy ministers of foreign affairs; Mohammad Hasan Mohyeddin-Najafi, ambassador and representative extraordinary of Iran in Kabul; Abdollah Yahya Tarzi, head of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; (Abdol Samad), head of the Second Political Department; and Mohammad Ibrahim Taherian, minister plenipotentiary of Iran's embassy in Kabul, and some officials of the embassy.

Joint Statement Issued

LD2807212692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] The Information and Publication Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that a joint statement was issued today at a ceremony held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the end of the visit of the high-ranking delegation of Iran, led by esteemed Alla'eddin Boroujerdi, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The statement was issued by esteemed Sayd Salman Gaylani, acting minister of foreign affairs, and by Alla'eddin Boroujerdi, Iranian deputy minister of foreign affairs, on behalf of their respective governments.

This ceremony was also attended by Mohammad Sediq Saljoqi, minister of state of foreign affairs; Hamed Karzai and Jalal Shams, acting deputy ministers of foreign affairs; Mohammad Hasan Mohyeddin-Najafi, ambassador and extraordinary representative of Iran; Ebrahim Taherian, charge d'affaires and plenipotentiary; and some other members of the embassy.

Here is the text of the joint statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by esteemed Alla'eddin Boroujerdi, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, paid a three-day official visit to Kabul from 25 to 28 July. This delegation was warmly welcomed by the high-ranking authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

The Iranian delegation met esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. At this

meeting the Iranian side congratulated the victory of the Muslim Mojahedin of Afghanistan and the appointment of esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, as president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. On behalf of the (?Presidency) of the Islamic Republic of Iran, an invitation was extended to Rabbani for a friendly visit to Iran. In expressing thanks for the assistance and support by the Islamic Republic of Iran during the 14-year long jihad of the people of Afghanistan, the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan accepted with delight the invitation to visit Tehran. It was decided that the date for this visit will be fixed as soon as possible.

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran also met separately esteemed Ostad Abdol Sabur Farid, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; esteemed Ahmad Shah Masud, minister of defense; esteemed Ayatollah Mohammad Asef Mohseni, secretary and spokesman of the Leadership Council of Afghanistan; and esteemed Pir Sayd Ahmad Gaylani, member of the Leadership Council of Afghanistan. The delegation held talks with them on subjects of mutual interest between the two countries.

The first official and working meeting held on 27 July between the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and esteemed Sayd Salman Gaylani, acting minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. In setting up three separate committees of experts on 27 July in connection with joint border cooperation, combat against narcotic substances, repatriation of the refugees, medical treatment affairs, joint cooperation on communication, the experts of the two countries concluded the following agreements:

1. Both sides agreed that a joint cooperation committee of Afghanistan and Iran, after consideration and approval, has to be set up as soon as possible for further broadening and consolidation of political, economic and cultural ties. This committee will have the duty to draw up a basis and a mechanism for cooperation in these matters and to make proposals to the governments of the two countries for approval.

2. Cooperation by the Iranian border regions to the border provinces of Afghanistan can only be carried out within the framework of agreement of an Afghanistan-Iran joint committee.

The existing agreements between the Khorasan Province of Iran and Herat and Farah Provinces of Afghanistan [words indistinct] and will be implemented together with agreements embodied in the first paragraph after approval.

3. Under agreements mentioned in paragraph 1, both sides agreed, in principle, on the setting up of joint border markets. The site and the procedure of the establishment of the markets shall very soon be presented by the experts of the the two sides to related governments for approval.

4. The two sides agreed on the establishment of a tripartite committee of Afghanistan, Iran and the UN for the escalation of the repatriation of the Afghan refugees.

5. The two sides agreed to set up a joint committee with serious emphasize on joint cooperation in campaign against the production, distribution and trafficking of drugs.

6. In fields of health and medical treatment: The Islamic Republic of Iran announced its readiness to train health cadres of Afghanistan, to assist in the provision of medicine and to build hospitals in Afghanistan. It was also agreed that the minister of public health of the Islamic State of Afghanistan will pay a visit to Tehran for the expansion of health cooperation.

7. In the field of post and telecommunications: Agreeing on joint telecommunication cooperation between the two countries, the Iranian side announced its readiness for aid in the field of scientific, educational and technical cooperation regarding post and telecommunications. The Iranian side also declared its readiness for the transit of Afghan post and telecommunication channels of Afghanistan via the Islamic Republic of Iran to other countries.

Islamic Path Guardians Attack Military Convoy

LD2807185192 (Clandestine) Radio Message
of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT
28 Jul 92

[Text] According to reports from Parwan province, on 26 July the Guardians of the Path of Islam, under the command of mojahed brother Abdol Karim Abed, attacked a military convoy of the remnants of the previous regime at the village of Qala-e Diwana, Bagram district.

The report adds that the mojahedin seized three armored tanks, two vehicles, and a large amount of light and heavy weapons from the convoy, which included more than 100 transport vehicles. According to the report, during this successful operation, 37 troops of the previous regime, including three high-ranking officers, were captured by the heroic mojahedin.

Kabul To Be Split Into 12 Security Districts

LD2707165392 Tehran IRNA in English 1434 GMT
27 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—In a plan made by the Afghanistan Leadership Council, Kabul is to be divided into 12 disciplinary quarters and all additional armed forces will be settled in the garrisons inside and outside the city, said spokesman of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami (Islamic Unity Party) Mohammad Nateqi here Monday.

Nateqi, who is also the political representative of the party, told IRNA that the decision was made by the

Afghan Leadership Council after the recent clashes initiated against the Wahdat in Kabul by the Ettehad-e Eslami Party led by 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf.

He said according to the plan, different Afghan parties would be responsible for controlling the quarters which would be under the supervision of the Afghan Defence Ministry.

The plan of dividing the Afghan capital into 12 quarters was made through the full agreement of different Afghan parties, Nateqi said adding that it would maintain Kabul's security against foreign aggression.

According to Nateqi holding free elections was the only way to end the claims made by the various Afghan factions. He stressed that in order to prevent the pressures imposed by the said parties, the elections should be held under the supervision of the United Nations and those neighbouring countries which helped the Afghan mujahideen through their Islamic jihad.

He said the existing situation in Afghanistan was not suitable for holding the elections and noted that presently the country's future political system was the most important issue.

Referring to the different plans made for the Afghan political system, Nateqi said, the plan of establishing a federal government supported by the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, had the most supporters so far.

Commentary Deplores Kabul Security

LD2807205892 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Exactly three months have passed since the interim government of Afghanistan began work. However, the noble people of Kabul are still living in a frightful atmosphere. Our sisters and mothers in Kabul are still subject to threats of aggression on their honor and dignity. Murder, looting, and terrorism still hang over the heads of everyone in Kabul like drawn swords. In short, the savagery and intimidation binding the people of Kabul are fully in place and even have reached a new height. Everyone, even the children, carries weapons, and every street of Kabul has been transformed into a local government which is under the control of thieves and murderous lunatics whose only pastime is the kidnapping and shooting of rival groups, women, and children.

The recent destructive urban clashes, of a kind which were not seen in any city even during the Russian military occupation, have resulted in the murder of thousands of our innocent compatriots. Thieves and robbers armed with guns and tanks, and professional murderers who are employed as mercenaries by the hostile parties, have taken up so-called searching posts in various parts of the city. They are not only robbing the

people of their goods and property, but kidnapping and torturing their rivals and even murdering them in the most savage manner.

The Ministry of Defense of the country, instead of forming an Islamic army and defending the borders, has appointed lunatic communists, who were engaged in the savage murder of our nation, to critical posts. The relevant minister, instead of keeping his promise to send the militias out of the city, uses the same militias and blood-thirsty communists in carrying out a purge in the city, and those responsible for the bloody incidents in the city are the same militias and communists who are still running various sensitive posts of the state. Instead of withdrawing from the city in line with agreements between Hezb-e Eslami and Jami'yat-e Eslami, the militias are increasing in numbers. The prime minister is not informed of the visits of ministers abroad; and ministers, who just consult with a few particular individuals, sign agreements with foreign countries which could threaten the national sovereignty of our country. Cabinet meetings are not held, due to the lack of interest and indifference of the ministers.

In short, unrestrained anarchy prevails in the country; an anarchy which is the result of the deliberate attitude and provocation of the militia and thousands of members of the former KHAD, who were armed under the command of the Minister of Civil Aviation.

A question which every faithful and patriotic Afghan asks is how long this chaos, power and legality vacuum, and lack of security should be allowed. The continuation of the present chaotic situation poses a serious threat to the country's national unity and territorial integrity.

You, the persecuted citizens of Kabul, tell your faithful compatriots how long your mojahed brothers should be watching these barbarities, brutalities, and chaos. We suggest that the interim Islamic state throw out the infamous communists and militias from critical posts as soon as possible from critical posts, in order to save the country. General elections should be held at the end of the reign of Mr. Rabbani. All cultureless gunmen, who are the cause of robbery, looting and murder, should be withdrawn from the city.

Peace and tranquillity will then return to our devastated country and an Islamic and elected government will be established by the mojahedin. Otherwise, no one can expect lasting peace and security. In that case, the responsibility for bloody war in Kabul will rest on the shoulders of those who are providing the grounds for such a war. Peace be upon you.

Hekmatyar Meets With Jihad Leaders

LD2807183892 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Brother Hekmatyar, amir of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, yesterday met with Jehadi commanders of Ghazni Province in one of the jihad centers near Kabul.

A correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reported that at the meeting Lt. Gen. Nawaz Khan, Engineer Janbaz, general commander of the Moqor district and Engineer Nawab, commander of Qarabagh district, Ghazni Province spoke on behalf of others and conveyed the feelings of the mojahedin and the people of Ghazni to the amir of Hezb-e Eslami. The commanders assured the amir of Hezb-e Eslami that they will continue their righteous jihad until the formation of an elected and Islamic government.

Mojahed brother Hekmatyar, yesterday morning, met with elders, leaders of tribes and commanders of the Jehadi formations of Paktia and Paktika Provinces at a mojahedin center near Kabul.

Our correspondent reports that at the meeting Modir Mohammad Ayub, Mawlawi Toti, Mawlawi Pahlawan, Mawlawi Abdol Hamid, Malek Aqa Mohammad and a number of elders and jihadi commanders took part. Our correspondent adds that they expressed support for the righteous stand of amir-e Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan and assured him that all mojahedin and people of Paktia and Paktika Provinces will continue their jihad until the establishment of an Islamic government.

Iran

Prayer Leaders View Western 'Cultural Invasion'

LD2807171992 Tehran IRIB Television First
Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Friday prayer leaders and preachers of Tehran Province today met to survey ways and means of practical confrontation with the West's social vices and cultural invasion. They also studied practical ways of implementing the divine edict about enjoining virtue and prohibiting vice.

During the meeting, President of the Islamic Publicity Organization Mr. Mohammadi-Araqi stated with reference to the recent statement by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i: The Islamic revolution leader's remarks spring from an important Koranic principle. These remarks have social, political, economic, and historical dimensions. Islamic preachers are dutybound to explain these remarks to the people.

He stated: If the country's mass media and those engaged in cultural affairs succeed in portraying the West to our people for what it really is, we need not resort to any other measure to combat Western vices.

Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli spoke next. He stated that it is incumbent on everybody to engage in renewed study of the divine duty of enjoining virtue and prohibiting vice. He then added that for implementing that precept, the country's security force must work in cooperation with the cultural officials. He stated that if one of them fails to comply with his duty, the precept of enjoining virtue and prohibiting vice could not be realized.

Foundation Leader on Khamene'i's Remarks on Virtue

LD2807164192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic
Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0245 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Interview with Mr. Rafiqdust, leader of the Foundation of the Oppressed and Selfless Devotees of the Islamic Revolution, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; recorded—from the "Life and Work program"]

[Text] [Correspondent] Dear Mr. Rafiqdust: After thanking you for your presence here today, may I ask you to please begin with some comments about the leader's recent remarks, and I will then ask you some further questions.

[Rafiqdust] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With greetings to the lofty spirit of the imam [Khomeyni] and to the eminent leader [Khamene'i], as well as to all the Basijis [Mobilization of the Oppressed] and hezbollahis of the Islamic revolution:

The fact is that the recent remarks of the eminent leader were in the nature of a warning, saying that the revolution must continue to be a revolution, an Islamic revolution, and that we must not allow the spirit of the revolution to be forgotten and to be turned into something that does not resemble a revolution. At any rate, in our country, the most profound social, political, cultural and economic changes have been brought about through the imam's movement and the imam's great revolution. A high price has already been paid for preserving the revolution thus far.

Well, there might be some people—that is, those for whom the current regime and the former regime are not very different and who want to live their own lives without any regard to our principles and standards—who might forget that there was a revolution in this country and that principles and values were established, as opposed to the situation that existed before, and that a great deal of energy was spent to this end.

Let us ask ourselves who preserved our revolution; who made it victorious and who protected it? If we focus on the strata responsible, we realize how profound the remarks of the eminent leader were. We realize that it is the one who sympathizes with the revolution, struggles for it and suffers for it, who can safeguard and defend the revolution. We must give back his terrain to him. We must officially honor his position and remove any obstacles in his way.

I believe that the eminent leader's recent remarks made exactly the same points as those raised by the eminent imam from the beginning of the revolution and even in his political will. They were a warning, saying: First, everyone must strive to bring those remarks alive more and more each day; and second, we must find a way of implementing them in order to keep the revolution alive, God willing, and we must carry it out.

[Correspondent] God willing. Mr. Rafiqdust, as you know, in his remarks, the eminent leader spoke about the importance of the manner in which virtue is propagated and vice prohibited. It must be carried out in a way that will prevent some self-interested people from taking advantage of the situation. I should like to ask you a question in this regard, to ask your opinion about how you think the task should be carried out.

[Rafiqdust] Yes. As a matter of fact, I discussed this issue many times during the past few years with brother Basijis and hezbollahis. First, those who propagate virtue and prohibit vice must themselves be familiar with the definition and conditions of this task. They must learn to correctly distinguish vice and virtue and know their boundaries. A group, a number of thinkers, jurists [foqaha], and social analysts must define those boundaries. Apart from this, the manner of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice changes in different circumstances. One day, the task is carried out in a gentle and brotherly or sisterly fashion. One day, it is on the basis of admonition and punishment. Another day, it is severe in manner. A group must be assigned the task of defining all this and making it known to the hezbollah ummah.

In my opinion, no specific stratum of people is responsible for implementing this task in society. Our entire community must be involved; that is to say, it is a minority that is throwing stones at the revolution and that is not prepared to adjust itself to the revolution. The majority of the people have adjusted to and understood the revolution, and we can see their presence in marches and in Friday prayer ceremonies. There is also a group of youths that acts as the vanguard of that majority and enters the stage to carry out God's commands in a manner approved by our society and our authorities. Therefore, we must make our society aware of the definitions of vice and virtue, present models of virtue, and, in the next instance, organize and plan for the manner in which vice must be confronted and virtue praised.

We know that, probably, a large part of the problem of our women not observing the Islamic dress code is related to women office workers. Well, that can be dealt with through the relevant offices. When an office takes a serious approach [sentence as heard].

Well, let us begin with sensitive areas. The Voice and Vision [radio and television] itself plays a very important role in this regard. Work places play a role. The educational sector has a very important role. A large number of our sisters are school teachers, most of whom observe the dress code very well. Then, we must come, finally, to public places, streets and markets. In their cases, too, as I said, we must adopt procedures that are acceptable to Islam and in keeping with the leader's remarks. He said that vice should be confronted in an appropriate manner, and it is not just a question here of violations of the dress code.

This revolution serves as a model today for all the Muslims of the world. We cannot hide ourselves. Anywhere in the world today—whether people are martyred in Bosnia-Herzegovina, whether it is Muslims in Algeria who are having problems, whether it is the case of the awakening of Muslims in Central Asia, whether it is in India or Pakistan, or whether it is any movement anywhere in the Islamic world—that movement arises out of the Islamic revolution, which was based on principles, standards, and models, and which revived the Islam of the noble prophet of Islam.

Therefore, it is worthwhile for us to devote all our energy to preventing the distortion of the image of true Islam; to prevent our society from turning into that that foreigners want, otherwise, they can say that the revolution has subsided and become silent, that we have returned to the time of Taghut [an idol in Mecca; reference to the Shah]. No, we did not have a revolution for nothing! Our revolution was, even more than a political revolution, a cultural revolution. Even more than an economic revolution, it was a cultural revolution. Well, a cultural revolution requires a cultural movement.

Today, our society is a society of prayer, fasting, hajj, and jihad, religious donations, and contributions. Our society must, therefore, also be a society for the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice. Today, social supervision is probably synonymous with the propagation of virtue and the prohibition of vice. It is not enough to merely understand; we must also confront vice in a suitable manner. What we are saying is that the same should apply to the propagation of virtue; that is to say, that group in our society which is good and carries out God's commands in a worthy manner—or even if there are people who used not to carry out God's commands and who do so today, who are virtuous now—we must thank them, value them so that others can see that in our Islamic system everything has its own place. If vice is confronted, virtue is also lauded.

Social supervision means that we should know the definition and boundaries of this God-imposed duty, for which everyone is responsible. We must also be very familiar with the manner in which it should be carried out; we must explain it, define it, say who must wear what kind of hejab, who must carry out what task where; saying, this is right and that is wrong. Then, God willing, our society will become clean.

[Correspondent] God willing. Thank you for your presence in today's Life and Work program. I wish you success and honor.

[Rafiqdust] Let me wish you and all your colleagues in this important medium every success. I also consider your role in this jihad to be very important.

Yazdi Rejects Human Rights Violation 'Propaganda'

LD2707194692 Tehran IRIB Television First
Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] At today's judicial session, in view of the continuing propaganda by certain bodies about Iranian violations of human rights, Judiciary chief Yazdi stated: The position taken by those bodies—who are informed by unreliable sources and are under political pressure from certain countries—undoubtedly puts a question mark against their credibility and international reputation.

He added: As the head of the country's Judiciary, while rejecting the figures published by those who believe that the perpetrators' punishments of the recent riots in Mashhad and some other cities, to narcotics smugglers, and the trial of the proprietors of FARAD magazine contravened international regulations and standards and violated human rights, I declare that the charges were investigated under the approved laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran and that recognized international principles were observed. No doubt, if representatives of those bodies refer to the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran and review the manner in which the judges operate, it would assist them in arriving at the facts as we declared them.

Commentary Views Culture Minister's Resignation

NC2807112592 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian
Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Station commentary: "Some Remarks on Regime's Islamic Guidance Minister's Resignation"]

[Text] Dear listeners: Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani accepted Islamic Guidance Minister Khatami-Ardakani's resignation and appointed Larijani in his place. Khatami-Ardakani tendered his resignation a few months ago, but Hashemi-Rafsanjani did not accept it. Knowledgeable sources believe that Khatami-Ardakani was under pressure from the hardliners for some time and that this forced him to resign.

For some years, Khatami-Ardakani was the clerical regime's Islamic guidance minister. This ministry's job is to control and censor publications and the media, the publishing and disseminating various books, publications, and films with a specific policy and line. These books, publications, and films propagated certain values and criteria that the regime—especially those individuals in the government with minds as dry as dust and who did not agree with them—also opposed in practice.

Nongovernment publications usually carried material about shortcomings in the country, society's problems, and the clerical regime's plans and its role in creating critical conditions in the country. This atmosphere—which emerged in the past four to five years in favor of the nongovernmental publications and artistes and writers with differing views—was the result of various factors.

With Hashemi-Rafsanjani coming to power and the war with Iraq ending, changes were inevitable in the regime's policies, however minor or cosmetic. The earlier strangulation and repression had peaked on the pretext that the country was at war and that solving every problem or shortcoming was postponed by the Iranian rulers until the war's end.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani was wooing the West to utilize its facilities to reconstruct devastated Iran and to salvage the regime from downfall. He had to project the image of a democratic and humanitarian president. Another factor instrumental in the relative relaxation of the political climate in Iran in the past few years was the regime Islamic guidance minister's way of thinking in the past few years. Of the clerics who had participated in the administration in the past few years, Khatami-Ardakani was the most realistic. Often he said in his interviews: We the regime will not allow the people to avail themselves of too many books, publications, or films. This is not possible in practice, because progress in science and technology will create a situation in which the people can easily gain access to material we oppose.

On another occasion, Khatami-Ardakani stated: In Europe, religion plays a part in every aspect of the people's lives; the people are fed up with it and turned away from it. If we Islamicize every aspect of society and the people's lives, we will not attain the desired results.

During his tenure as Islamic guidance minister, Khatami-Ardakani often supported those nongovernmental publications and artistes that were victims of propaganda attacks by some of the publications affiliated with the regime and the Hezbollahis. At least he backed those laws that freely permitted the publication and dissemination of such publications.

Like other regime echelons, Khatami-Ardakani believed in the Islamic Republic and the system of the rule of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] and served a regime that wrested the freedom, democracy and, comfort of the Iranian people. Regardless of his correct assessment of many issues, he was unable to change the dictatorship's nature and the current antihuman system by himself.

The question arises: How did Hashemi-Rafsanjani agree to accept this minister's resignation? Was he not inclined to continue the slightly relaxed atmosphere based on compromise or collusion with the West? The regime only tolerates the limited field that has opened up for publications in Iran in the past few years if it does not create serious problems for it.

The daily spreading demonstrations, strikes, marches, and miscellaneous tactics of the people's protests find the regime concluding that restrictions should be imposed on publications and mass media so that they do not freely reflect the people's campaigns and actions and the regime's crimes.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government is determined to drastically crush the actions of the people who are

displeased with the regime and to initiate a new round of arrests and executions of its opponents. The regime does not consider the earlier relative freedom of the press—which had more a social and cultural bias than a political one—to its advantage. Its first step in eliminating this atmosphere was to remove Khatami-Ardakani from the Islamic Guidance Ministry.

Concluding, those hardliners who attacked Khatami-Ardakani for giving a free hand to the growth and development of a non-Islamic culture will be harmed more by his removal than others. With Khatami-Ardakani's presence and the conditions he created for the press, the hardliners who are no longer in power could have used the publications to further propagate their own views and concepts. Khatami-Ardakani's removal and the creation of obstacles in the path of newspapers and publications finds them facing a very unpleasant situation.

Hormozgan Earnings From Non-Oil Exports Rise

LD2707173192 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT
27 Jul 92

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas (Hormozgan), July 27, IRNA—RIs [rials] 621.68 million were earned last month through non-oil exports from ports and islands of this southern province.

The monthly consignment totalling 5,000 tons included pistachios, dried garlicks, dates, dried dates, onions, chickpeas, cabbages and cumins. The figures show a 14 percent increase compared to the corresponding period last year.

In related news from the northwestern province of Zanzan, the standard and industrial research department exported over 483 tons of non-oil products worth more than 55 million rials to ten countries last month. The figure shows a 23 percent increase in terms of value as compared to last year.

The exports mostly raisins, pistachios, biscuits and detergents, were shipped to Indonesia, Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium, Tajikistan, Russia, Azerbaijan, Kuwait and Bulgaria.

Alcohol Smuggler Accused of Spying for Iraq

LD2807144792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT
28 Jul 92

[Text] With the arrest of the members of an extensive alcohol-distribution network, over 10,000 bottles of a variety of foreign alcoholic drinks were uncovered. After announcing this news, the prosecutor general in charge of the campaign against narcotics and vice said: This network of vice was discovered after the arrest and confession of the members of a narcotics distribution network, and its members arrested by virtue of the cooperation and constant efforts of the law enforcement forces of south and east Tehran. He added: The members

of that gang smuggled foreign alcoholic beverages from various European countries via Turkey, northern Iraq, and our country's northern borders, and transferred them to other parts of the country in various vehicles, in which they were skillfully hidden.

The prosecutor general in charge of the campaign against narcotics and vice said: One of the members of this network was accused of espionage and supplying Iraq with classified information. The issue is being investigated and legally dealt with.

Velayati Departs on 2-Day Italy Visit

LD2907084492 Tehran IRNA in English 0537 GMT
29 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here for Rome Wednesday on a 2-day official visit to discuss promotion of mutual ties.

During the visit, made at the invitation of Italian Foreign Minister Vincenzo Scotti, Velayati is scheduled to discuss Tehran-Rome ties and international developments with the Italian president, prime minister, foreign minister and presidents of the parliaments.

Italy ranks third after Japan and Germany as Iran's economic partner.

Trade ties between the two countries reached \$3,500 million during the past Christian year, the highest record in Iran-Italy trade exchanges.

Commentary Views Priorities in Anti-U.S. Struggle

NC2707205492 Tehran SALAM in Persian
14 Jul 92 p 12

[Commentary by Tabesh: "Priorities in the Anti-U.S. Struggle"]

[Text] Some of our media are following and reporting on the disturbances in U.S. society with great interest and sensitivity. The West in general—and the United States in particular—is facing racial riots, social and moral crises, crime, corruption, and many other problems. Reports on these incidents have gone too far, claiming that the United States is undergoing economic weakness and decline because it is the world's largest debtor country!

We should not be surprised at this situation in view of the uninterrupted hostility U.S. imperialism has had toward Islamic Iran since the Islamic Revolution's victory. Because our people consider the United States to be Islam's and mankind's primary enemy, they receive any news of the decline and weakness of this malevolent giant with satisfaction.

We need to warn our friends who express their anti-U.S. feelings by attributing U.S. problems to internal factors that we should not ignore the current dangerous U.S. activities. Taking for granted the malevolence of the

Americans and the fact that their downfall is inevitable does not mean that we should ignore current dangers. The United States is going through economic problems; however, these problems cannot be compared with the economic problems in a Third World country or in average European countries. The removal of the Eastern superpower from the world stage does not mean that the United States can rule the world. What is true is that one of its major rivals in the race for world control has been removed from the scene and the Americans can focus their attention on so-called fundamentalism in the Islamic world. When we speak about European and Japanese rivalry with the United States on the world scene, we should understand just how much we may be affected by this rivalry. We should realistically assess the extent of this rivalry and its affect on the problems existing between Islamic Iran and the United States.

Our hopes and wishes for the dissolution of the great Satan should not prevent our public from paying attention to the following:

1. The vast U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf;
2. The unprecedented establishment of ground and naval bases in the Persian Gulf littoral shaykhdoms;
3. The continuation of the plot to keep oil prices low, with Saudi help;
4. The illegitimate intervention in Iraq's future;
5. The creeping movement in Afghanistan;
6. The expansion of political, economic, and cultural influence in the newly independent republics to our north;
7. The expansion of Camp David to include all Arab countries;
8. The suppression of the Hizballah and Islamic forces in Lebanon;
9. The plot for the disarmament of Muslims and Arabs in favor of the Zionist regime; and
10. The expansion of official terrorism and kidnapping on the pretext of fighting terrorism.

Add to these the thousands of other large and small issues in the cultural, economic, and [ellipsis as published] fields that continue to keep the United States at the top of the list of the Islamic Republic's aggressive enemies.

In the same way that our country's social limitations are magnified by the enemies of the revolution, we should strive to identify the social realities in societies which some consider to be paradise. We should not forget our priorities.

Columnist Views U.S. Policies on Kurds, Iraq

Part Two

NC2807161992 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
13 Jul 92 p 4

[Part two of an unspecified number of installments from the "Strategic Discussions" column by Hoseyn Puya: "Game of Cards"]

[Excerpts] The White House is centering on how to exploit developments in Iraq, because the two grounds referred to in the previous commentary are less likely to help it succeed. The significance of the issue can be seen when we study the long-term outcomes of this policy. There are two possibilities as far as the formation of a Kurdish government in Iraqi Kurdistan is concerned. First is that this step will be within the framework of the formation of an independent government that will ultimately lead to Iraq's dismemberment. Second is that this step will become a lever to pressure Saddam's government and it will not lead to Iraq's dismemberment.

An independent Kurdish government is one of the long-standing wishes of the Kurds and one of the traditional policies of the big powers in this sensitive and strategic area. For many years the Iraqi Kurds have considered themselves the main pivot of this movement and they have enjoyed European rather than U.S. support. Basically speaking, European colonialists have played the biggest role in delineating geographic boundaries in the Middle East. In the circumstances, Europe apparently remains interested in using old means to achieve some ends, because it does not regard U.S. domination in the Middle East favorably. There are three countries in the region that are directly involved in the issue and one that considers itself indirectly involved. Iran, Turkey, and Syria are equally involved, but for different reasons. Perhaps Turkey faces the most critical problem.

In the past 13 years, Iran's logical and principled approaches have enabled it to remove past differences with the Kurds and, by attacking the Kurds culturally, politically, and economically, it has revived the thinking that they are an inseparable part of the vast Islamic nation. Now, apart from a few people in this part of Iran, no one supports the policy of an independent Kurdish government and the people of Iranian Kordestan have realized that this policy can only give rise to adversity and dependence. This is thanks to a cultural, political, military [as published], and economic effort and is one of the revolution's outstanding outcomes that has not received the attention it deserves.

The situation in Turkey is fundamentally different. Kurds there have a strong organization and great influence and Turkey's hostile attitude has drawn a line separating it from the Kurds. Any movement that strengthens the Kurdish stand is considered contrary to Turkey's national interests and is opposed by Turkey. The same applies to Syria, although the Kurdish problem

in Syria is not the major problem it is in Turkey. Syria may want to gain a role in Iraq's future developments through some wheeling and dealing.

The only country in the Middle East that supports the formation of a Kurdish state is the Zionist government. The Zionists consider the dismemberment of any Islamic government in the Middle East and the emergence of any autonomous region based on nonreligious and nationalistic ideologies to be among their strategic objectives, because this can weaken Islamic countries and can help promote nonreligious and nationalistic movements. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly there are convincing reasons to believe that even within the framework of America's new world order Iraq cannot be dismembered. Iraq's dismemberment—by the formation of a government in Kurdistan—will be followed by a demographic and religious change in that country that will inevitably pave the way for the Ba'th Party's downfall. In that case, the natural alternative will no longer be nationalistic movements, because the Shiites form the majority in Iraq, where circumstances mean anything can happen. Historically, the Kurds have been a means to preserve the demographic and religious balance in Iraq and the governments that have come to power there have always been in proportion with them.

It is naive to believe that the West, especially America, wants to pay such a high price. Although developments of the past half century in America show that the Zionists have imposed their objectives in extremely sensitive conditions, there is now conformity between the expansionist objectives of the Zionists and U.S. national interests.

Part Three

NC2807165292 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
16 Jul 92 p 4

[Part three of an unspecified number of installments from the "Strategic Discussions" column by Hoseyn Puya: "Game of Cards"]

[Text] The second [as published] assumption as to why there is a new movement to declare a government in Iraqi Kurdistan is closer to reality. To impose its policies on the Middle East, the West always seeks the right tools at the right time. Doubtlessly the West, especially the United States, considers Saddam as its psychological complex. Public opinion on Saddam in the West is such that his annihilation can be considered a humanitarian success for anyone who can achieve it. Bush wants this achievement for himself to maintain his position and credibility among the American public and to defeat his opponents in the presidential election. But can this mean a development in Iraq's power structure?

Undoubtedly the answer is no. The United States does not accept any instability that may alter the power structure in Iraq in a way that cannot be foreseen, and

considers this not in its national interest. It is because of this that the United States, throughout the Gulf war, did not want to annihilate Saddam, because U.S. strategists believed that Saddam's annihilation would create a power vacuum in Iraq, leaving no reliable alternative. Under the circumstances, the United States knows that any direct military intervention to overthrow Saddam will strengthen anti-alien and anti-U.S. views, which could, in the long run, prevent the United States from attaining its objectives. The method that has been chosen is to create a reliable platform to gradually weaken Saddam and to select a power to replace him through a long process. If we view the issues from this angle, we will see a completely different situation emerging.

The formation of the Kurdistan government in Iraq creates these conditions in which the United States and its regional supporters can inflict pressures on Saddam's regime and make a change in the Iraqi power structure by resorting to a political-military maneuver. Such a policy will have regional and global repercussions and it is clear that regional governments such as Iran and Turkey will adopt a stance to avert the negative impacts of this policy on their national interests. Iran, as a country that wants stability in the region and supports the preservation of the territorial integrity of the Muslim country of Iraq, will never remain silent on a process that threatens these two strategic objectives.

Inevitably, Iran's stance will be of special significance. Defending its strategic principles, Iran should also act in such a way as to avoid strengthening the West's positions. Iran wants Iraq's territorial integrity to be preserved, but considers Saddam's policies to be contrary to the Iraqi people's interests. It also believes that Iraq's future should be determined through a process of independent decisionmaking by the Iraqi people. A more important point is that by entering this dangerous game, the Iraqi Kurds will become a tool for fulfilling U.S. policies. Viewing this from a wider vista, we can see no doubt that they will become the first victims of this policy. The struggle between the Iraqi leaders and the Western countries led by the United States has actually been creating instability in northern Iraq for many years, leading to the massacre, backwardness, and homelessness of the Iraqi Kurds. With the conditions that are emerging, a similar situation will again prevail in this area. Without carefully weighing the policies that are being implemented by the United States and its friends, the Kurdish leaders are directing their people into the killing fields. If the White House can, through a series of steps, convince U.S. public opinion that Bush has chosen the most logical way to annihilate Saddam, then inevitably this will be an effective factor in his and the Republican Party's possible victory in the U.S. presidential election.

Paper Urges Retaliation for British Expulsions

LD2707091892 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT
27 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—A morning daily Monday called on Iran's foreign policy officials, especially those in charge of foreign trade, to take immediate measures in retaliation for the recent decision of the British Government to expel three Iranians.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI urged Iran, as a first appropriate step, to ban representatives of over 60 British companies which are scheduled to attend the forthcoming Tehran's International Trade Fair in October.

Relations between Tehran and London strained last week after Iran asked the third secretary of the British Embassy in Tehran to leave the country within a month for activities against diplomatic norms. London on Friday ordered three Iranians to leave Britain within a week but denied it was retaliating.

"In a specific plan drawn with the cooperation of the Majles, the volume of trade between Iran and Britain should be reduced to the minimum possible level and, in the long run, a revision should be made in the balance of trade between the two countries, JOMHURI urged.

Stressing that London's 'unjustified' measure in expelling the Iranians, was a reaction to the expulsion of a 'spy' from Iran, the article noted that by taking such a step Britain tried to pretend that it held 'the initiative'. But, by making an appropriate decision, Iran should convince London that it has no other alternative but to accept 'justice'.

The 'shortsighted' British statesmen should have by now realised that if, under the patronage of the 'super criminal of the century—the U.S.', they can still flaunt in certain parts of the world, in the eyes of the Iranians they are the same old advocates of the 'divide and rule' policy.

Prime Minister John Major's government is now trying to cover up past events such as its support for Salman Rushdie, the apostate author of the blasphemous book 'The Satanic Verses', and the scandalous espionage case of Roger Cooper in Iran, it said.

It said such an attempt on the part of the British Government was being made in order to inject fresh blood into the veins of Tehran-London economic relations with an objective to save the bankrupt British economy and to keep the conservative party in power for a longer period.

"But, the Iranian nation would never forget the treasons committed by Britain in the past decades, especially London's support for the subservient regime of Saddam (Husayn) in the course of the eight year old Iraq-Iran war."

Ties With Cairo Limited to 'Cultural' Aspects

LD2807161192 Tehran IRNA in English
1424 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), July 28, IRNA—Iran will solely have cultural relations with Egypt, not diplomatic ties, and the Islamic Republic Embassy will not be reopened in Cairo, President Advisor for International Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayyeri announced here today.

Speaking to a group of Iranian and foreign students, Mo'ayyeri outlined the Islamic Republic's foreign policy on establishment of relations with world states, and said the severance of ties with Cairo was due to the Egyptian Government's compromise with the illegal Zionist state and acceptance of Camp David Accord.

He added that the Islamic Republic will only have cultural relations with Cairo in view of the fact that Egypt abounds with enlightened and freedom loving Muslims.

On relations with neighbouring Turkey, Mo'ayyeri said following seizure of the Iran bound trade ship, Cape Maleas, by Turkey last October, scheduled economic and political visits to Ankara had to be cancelled. Iran was also forced to bar Turkish trailers from transitting through its territory, he added. According to Mo'ayyeri the Turkish court is to announce its final decision on Cape Maleas soon.

In the gathering Deputy Foreign Minister for Afro-Arab Affairs, Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, termed the present world as an arena of all out cultural, political, economic, social and military confrontation between Muslims and global arrogance.

He noted that the U.S.-Israeli attempts to hamper Iran's cordial relations with the Central Asian republics and weaken the Islamic revolution, have been frustrated, thanks to public awareness in the said republics.

Reason for Severed Ties Reviewed

NC2807110992 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
7 Jul 92 p 2

[Commentary by S. Shahidi: "From Which Angle Should Relations With Egypt Be Viewed?"]

[Excerpts] Some Iranian foreign policy officials have been discussing reviving diplomatic relations with Egypt for some time. Based on reports placed at the public's disposal and on the type of remarks by Egyptian and Iranian Foreign Ministry officials, the two countries appear to be about to reestablish the diplomatic relations that were severed in 1358 [year beginning 21 March 1979] after Egypt and Israel signed the Camp David Accord. [passage omitted]

How can the reason for Iranian-Egyptian relations being severed be removed when the Camp David Accord remains in force? It will be meaningless to say that expanding Camp David to include other Arab countries

has removed the reason for severing relations with Egypt and that, in view of Egypt's importance in the Arab and Islamic world, both before and after Camp David, we should establish relations with it.

We justly claim that our diplomacy differs from that of other countries and that our ultimate objective is to establish relations with governments, primarily with Islamic governments, to establish contacts and to convey the "message" that we claim to be miraculous. [passage omitted]

We are not living in isolation; the world is like a family in which messages are conveyed rapidly. When the propaganda of world arrogance is based on "changing the policy of the Islamic revolution after the imam's demise" and when reestablishing relations with Egypt is viewed within this context and will be considered as yet another trump card in the effort to change the Islamic revolution's policy, how can we interpret reestablishing relations with Egypt differently from the message that is being conveyed? When the reasons for reestablishing relations with Egypt are being hidden from the Iranian nation, how can we expect the Muslim nations not to believe the West's allegations that "The Islamic revolution's aspirations are being reviewed?"

Once Egyptian-Iranian relations are reestablished, the question that will immediately arise in the Muslim nations is: Which of these two countries has changed, Egypt or Iran? The natural answer to this question is: Egypt is the same Egypt of Camp David. Islamic Iran, then, has reviewed its positions. While we are trying to prove that this is a lie and that Iran has not reviewed its positions, why should we adopt this political decision and strengthen the propaganda against us?

The Egyptian regime would appear to be the only winner in reestablishing relations with Iran, and the price we will pay will be extremely high. We will be helping to cast doubts among the Muslim nations on the revolution's aspirations and on the legitimacy of the Egyptian regime; the latter is more critical than the former.

We should have common criteria for our relations with other countries. If we condemn a regime that suppresses Muslims and are decisive in our policy against that country for the sake of the revolution's aspirations and for defending the Muslims, how can we ignore the barbaric suppression of fundamentalist Muslims in Egypt?

The Islamic uprising is culminating. It is one of the outcomes of the line that the Islamic revolution has drawn between pure Mohammedan Islam and American-style Islam and we should not resort to half-baked political steps to cast doubts on this uprising for the sake of immediate and short-term interests.

Newspapers Condemn Kurdish Leader's Statement

LD2807110692 Tehran IRNA in English 0853 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Two of the morning dailies, Tuesday took an Iraqi Kurdish leader to task for his irresponsible statement of merging northern Iraq with Turkey, calling it "greater than treason".

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI asked whether Iraqi Kurds who so bravely weathered the atrocities of the Ba'thist regime including chemical attacks, were really willing to pour cold water on their long standing struggle by selling their motherland to the outsiders?

"Are not the Kurds in Turkey passing through great difficulties today? Is not the situation of Kurds in Turkey similar to that of Iraq?"

"It is possible today that Turkey may welcome the Iraqi Kurds. But Turkey's point is to get hold of the oilfields of northern Iraq, and when such a situation arises the time may come for Iraqi Kurds to be forcibly moved to non-oil regions of Turkey," analysed the daily.

"Only unity and solidarity can help Iraq stand against plots of the enemies of Islam. The only way for the salvation of the Iraqi people is the territorial integrity and formation of an independent government (in Baghdad).

"The path some Iraqi Kurdish leaders are treading is a bypass which will destroy the achievements the long-lasting struggles of the Iraqi people, warned the daily referring to the recent remarks of the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Jalal Talabani to accede northern Iraq to Turkey.

It cautioned the Kurds against falling prey to Western deceit as was evident by blatant French intervention in the so-called Kurdish parliamentary elections held last month in northern Iraq.

"Kurds are not the lone people under oppression in Iraq. The majority Shi'ite Arabs are passing through a similar if not worse situation. In other words, almost all the Iraqi people have taken part in the fight against Ba'thist rule, therefore, any idea of self-rule in the northern areas or, even worse, on the annexation of parts of the country to Turkey is a treason against the Iraqi people in general," concluded the daily.

Commenting on the same subject TEHRAN TIMES noted that what Talabani failed to take into consideration was that accession to Turkey would mean dismembering of Iraq, and that in the opinion of the writer, "would be the start of a chain reaction endangering territorial integrity of other countries in the region."

It said that escaping from political realities is of no use in the fight against the present regime in Baghdad. What Talabani and other political activists in Iraq should realize is that "deposing Saddam Husayn is not for the

moment on the foreign agenda of the U.S., for the Americans do not trust the present alternatives to Saddam's regime."

No doubt, Western countries will remove Saddam only when they are certain that his successor will be moving in line with the foreign policies of the West, noted the daily.

"Thus it would be a grave mistake for the Iraqi opposition forces to pin their hopes on the Western countries' designs for removing Saddam instead of pursuing a relentless course of struggle against the Baghdad regime," it concluded.

Sudanese Delegation Holds Talks With Officials

Bilateral Cooperation Discussed

LD2707104192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Mr Mohammad Sulayman, member of Sudan's Revolution Command Council and head of the Iranian-Sudanese joint commission, and Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi, the Sudanese minister of finance and economic planning, and a delegation made up of that country's oil and banking officials, met and discussed bilateral cooperation with Oil Minister Aqazadeh today.

In the meeting, our country's oil minister, commenting on the results of studies conducted in Sudan by a number of Iranian oil experts on the existence of oil reserves in that country's territory, declared the [National] Iranian Oil Company's readiness to assist Sudan in its exploration and extraction project.

According to our correspondent, in the meeting the two countries' officials decided to sign an agreement on the formation of a joint technical, financial, and legal commission to review technical issues and evaluate the financial cost of the oil exploration and extraction project.

After the meeting, the Sudanese minister of finance and economic planning told our correspondent: Thus far 110 million barrels of procurable oil reserves have been discovered in Sudan, and with the drilling of a new well initiatives have started on the extraction of 2,000 barrels of oil per day from one of Sudan's oil fields. The potential for oil extraction could be increased through drilling more wells in that country.

Meanwhile, in Tehran this morning Colonel Muhammad Sulayman, Sudan's culture minister and member of the Command Council, and Mr Larijani, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, met to discuss cultural cooperation between the two countries.

In the meeting, Mr Larijani stressed the importance of increasing cultural cooperation in various fields, in view of the two countries' cultural links and in the framework of cultural agreements and protocols signed between Iran and Sudan.

Colonel Muhammad Sulayman then said that Sudan is a good base for the propagation of Islam in Africa and expressed the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran's technical and artistic experiences will be put at the disposal of Sudan.

Oil, Crop Exchange Planned

LD2807142592 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Iran and Sudan here Tuesday held the final round of talks regarding export of Iran's crude oil to Sudan and import of meat from Khartoum.

The talks were attended by member of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman and Head of Iran's Plan and Budget Organization Mas'ud Roghani Zanjani.

The delegation later left Tehran for Khartoum accompanied by a representative from Iran's meat organization to assess the meat market in that country.

A contract is expected to be signed between the two countries with Iran rendering technical assistance to Sudan for oil exploitation and refining after research studies are conducted at expert level.

The Sudanese side also announced Khartoum's readiness to export cotton and corn to Iran and expressed hope for further expansion of bilateral relations.

Colonel Sulayman and his delegation which arrived here last Saturday, also met and held talks with Construction Jihad Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh last night with the minister announcing Iran's readiness to cooperate with the Sudanese Muslim people.

Six Kuwaiti Aircraft Handed Over in Ceremony

LD2707180292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Six Kuwaiti passenger airliners, which were brought to Iran by the Iraqis after the start of the oil war and the Persian Gulf crisis, were handed over to a representative of the Kuwaiti Government in Mashhad this afternoon. The first of these planes has left Mashhad for Kuwait.

According to a Central News Unit report, at the ceremony to sign the protocol on handing over the aircraft, Mr. Nuriyan, the head of the Civil Aviation Organization, said that these aircraft, which bear the colors and insignia of the Iraqi Government, made emergency landings in Iran without prior warning in early January 1991, during the Persian Gulf crisis. After the end of the war, when it was established that the aircraft belong to Kuwait, Iran declared its readiness to immediately return them to Kuwait.

He added: The talks about the payment for the cost of repairs and maintenance of the aircraft have not yet reached a definite conclusion. However, while emphasizing the expenses incurred, the Islamic Republic of Iran has decided to treat the issue of Kuwait's repayment of the expenses as a separate matter.

New Afghan News Agency Opens Office in Tehran

LD2707092392 Tehran IRNA in English 0801 GMT
27 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—The Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami news agency opened its office here to cover the latest developments in Afghanistan, said the man in-charge-of the office 'Ali Tawfiq in an interview with IRNA Monday.

The Afghan news agency was set up last month in Kabul upon the decision of the Central Council of the party to cover political, social, military, cultural and economic events in Afghanistan.

At present, the Tehran bureau is the only branch of the news agency abroad, he said adding that other offices would be set up in other countries if necessary.

Delegation Accompanying Aid Convoy to Nakhichevan

LD2607172992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
26 Jul 92

[Text] A convoy carrying food and aid left Orumiyyeh for Nakhichevan this morning. According to a Central News Unit report, the aid comprised 25 tons of sugar, 50 tons of flour, powdered milk, baby food, canned fruit, and bricks for building three mosques in the autonomous Nakhichevan Republic. It was conveyed on 16 trucks and trailers. According to the report, a delegation comprising officials from West Azerbaijan accompanied the convoy to the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan. The delegation is to hold talks with the republic's officials on the expansion of commercial and economic ties between West Azerbaijan province and the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan.

Tajik Radio-Television Delegation Leaves Tehran

LD2507155392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
25 Jul 92

[Excerpts] The head of the Voice and Vision of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. (Mirbaba Mir'rahim), left Tehran this morning. He was seen off by the head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Mohammad Hashemi. [passage omitted]

The head of Tajikistan's Voice and Vision expressed the hope that cooperation in the fields of exchange of radio and television between the two countries will be expanded.

Uzbek Foreign Minister Receives Velayati Message

LD2807160192 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT
28 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow, July [no date as received] IRNA—Uzbek Foreign Minister Ubaidulla Abdurazzaqov in his meeting with Iran's Charge D'affaires in Tashkent Mohammad Hashemi Golpayegani on Monday, said that his country's ties with Tehran have never been influenced by the hostile propaganda carried out against Iran by the West.

"We believe that Iran follows the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries," he added.

Golpayegani delivered Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's message to Abdurazzaqov and discussed bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interests including preparations for Uzbek President Islam Karimov's forthcoming visit to the Islamic Republic.

Abdurazzaqov thanked Velayati for the message and hoped to visit Iran soon.

He said Uzbeks still believe in Islam after 70 years of Soviet communist rule. The common culture and history shared by the Iranians and Uzbeks would pave the grounds for consolidating mutual relations, he added.

Envoy to Austria Reassigned to Slovenia

LD2707160892 Tehran IRNA in English 1351 GMT
27 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Vienna, Austria, Mehdi Safari was appointed as the Islamic republic's accredited ambassador to Slovenia today.

The appointment was made upon the proposal of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and approved by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Commentary Criticizes German 'Intervention'

NC2807104292 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
19 Jul 92 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "'Silence' in Face of 'Intervention'"]

[Text] Concluding his visit to Germany, Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati described his trip as successful and a step toward expanding relations between the two countries. News agency reports speak of other issues that he and the Iranian ambassador in Bonn ignored, issues that speak of flagrant intervention by the Germans in our country's domestic affairs. For example, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said: "The Iranian Government should try harder to respect human rights." German Chancellor Helmut Kohl also stressed to Dr. Velayati the need for human rights to be respected in Iran.

The experience of imperialist intervention in various countries has always shown that, since it extends financial and technical aid to other countries, the West assumes the right to impose a series of conditions and to comfortably interfere in the domestic affairs of the countries it assists. The West compels these countries to privatize state properties, to reduce state subsidies, to respect the human rights that the West has in mind, to reduce military expenditure, and... [ellipsis as published] All these assume special significance, particularly under current circumstances, when the balance of power on the international scene has been upset and an arena has opened up for the West's incursion.

The behavior of the leaders in Bonn is no different than the fact that, based on existing information, German companies have not implemented agreements they have signed with the Iranian side and Germany has no wish to continue implementing the agreement on building the Bushehr power plant. Bonn's promises—for the umpteenth time in the past 14 years—that problems between the two countries will be sorted out cannot be taken as a sign that the visit was a success.

Our country's special geopolitical situation and its sensitive political role in the region grant us the freedom to choose our economic and even political partners. When the industrial countries are competing for economic participation and investment in Iran, we are the ones who have the right to choose our partners. Germany, which is suffering economic recession, with its monopolies seeking profit and economic interests abroad, needs us more than we need it.

West's Reaction To Improved Ties With Bonn Viewed

NC2807052192 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
19 Jul 92 p 16

[Commentary by Reza Sokhansanj: "London's Indignation on Broadening Tehran-Bonn Ties"]

[Text] Our foreign minister paid a three-day visit to Germany last week, opening a new chapter in bilateral political, commercial, and economic relations.

During the visit, Velayati met and talked with the German chancellor, foreign minister, economy and finance minister, and several other high-ranking German officials.

Tehran-Bonn relations fluctuated during the past months. Germany's incompletion of industrial and scientific projects led to problems between the two countries. Based on mutual feelings, a political determination to expand relations, and their mutual understanding of new international developments, both Tehran and Bonn understand the need to preserve and expand relations.

Dr. Velayati's visit to Germany, which is one of the major and active countries in the European Community and the EEC, was of great significance.

At a time when London has not done anything to amend Britain's sinister record in Iran, and has in fact recently added upon its hostility and enmity toward Islamic Iran, the recent developments in Iranian-German relations and the fruits yielded by the Islamic Republic's foreign minister visit must upset the British Government.

The cancellation of a visit to Tehran by the director general of the British Foreign Office for Middle East Affairs Tehran after a date had been set, the craftily worded reasons given for this cancellation, the support expressed by a number of House of Commons deputies for a bankrupt and defeated little group [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] shows London's lack of good will in its relations with Iran. When London used the excuse that the Foreign Office official could not visit Tehran because Britain would be acting as alternate head of the EEC, the Islamic Republic's foreign minister was being warmly welcomed as a head of state by high-ranking German officials. This further reveals London's lie-disseminating and deceitful policies. London.

The coordinated effort by some enraged countries against Islamic Iran in the past few days has demonstrated their indignation at the stability in and the improvement of Iran's economic situation.

The coordinated effort by the parliaments of Britain, Italy, the European Community, and the United States in issuing statements supporting a bankrupt little group, followed by their mass media's negative reporting on Velayati's visit to Germany speaks of the indignation and dissatisfaction of London and Washington on the expansion of Tehran-Bonn relations.

The state-run BBC radio and the United States portrayed the futile act by six ruffians who tried to stone the car of Dr. Velayati and his delegation in Potsdam as an important incident. By overshadowing this important visit and its outcome with this incident, they tried to downgrade the visit.

The outcome of this visit was contrary to what London and Washington wished. The conclusion of important economic agreements between Tehran and Bonn, the agreement to expand the volume of trade and on more German oil purchases from Iran, and Bonn's wish for close economic relations between Iran and the European Community were only some of the important results of this visit.

In this visit, German officials propounded the issue of human rights. Of course, Western countries always use the human rights issue as a lever in their political talks. This is even true now, when we are seeing the escalation of ethnic conflicts in Europe, the intensification of racism, and the nonobservance of the rights of minorities and races more than ever before. What stance, other than silence and condescension, have the Europeans adopted in preventing the pitiless massacre in the heart of Europe, in Bosnia-Herzegovina? What steps have the

Westerners taken about the legalization of U.S. kidnapping, which is a flagrant insult to all nations and tantamount to the establishment of the rule of the jungle in the world?

What London and some other European countries should take into consideration is that by intensifying hostility toward Iran, by creating a hostile atmosphere against Iran, and by pressuring Iran they will gain nothing and will be deprived of possible joint economic interests in Iran. Their insistence that the historic decree by the imam, may his soul be sanctified, on Salman Rushdie, who has insulted 1 billion Muslims, be lifted will be in vain.

When the imam's decree was issued, all the European and Western countries recalled their ambassadors. They, however, had to send them back later. Just as then, any attempt to hurt Iran will only be to their detriment and will be doomed to fail.

Commentary—Israel Running Azerbaijani Government

NC2807122792 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
14 Jul 92 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "Hidden Hands Behind Tel Aviv-Baku Relations"]

[Text] Three days have passed since it was reported that relations were established between Baku and Tel Aviv, and the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Israeli regime have not refuted this report. This means, according to diplomatic custom, that the report is approved and shows that the heads of the two regimes have agreed to establish and expand Tel Aviv-Baku relations without any propaganda commotion!

What does the Israeli regime—the major achievement of which since its illegitimate establishment in 1948 has been military occupation, territorial expansionism, suppression of the Palestinian nation, and the massacre of Muslims—have in common with the Azerbaijani Government that calls for establishing relations?

Azerbaijani Shiites, who have tasted the bitterness of almost two centuries of Russian domination, certainly support their Palestinian brothers in the struggle to liberate the first Kiblah of the Muslims—Holy Jerusalem—and this may be the main reason the Baku government is afraid to confirm the report that relations have been established with Israel.

The People's Front of Azerbaijan came to power two months ago when, at the same time it controlled Baku, Shusha—Azerbaijan's most important fortress in Karabakh—fell into the hands of the Armenians. The question now is: Why does the People's Front intend to hand Baku over to the Jews this time?

In a recent news conference with the Turkish press, Abulfaz Aliyev [name as published]—whose government's major program has been to defame the reputation

of the Muslim people of Iran and to attack the Islamic Republic—called for a line to be drawn "between the ranks of the friends and foes of the people of Azerbaijan."

We can now tell Aliyev: This line was drawn up before you even thought about it!

The Azerbaijani Shiites and all the revolutionary Muslims of the world have drawn this line and definitely Azerbaijan's foes include the Israeli regime, while the its friends include all the supporters of the Islamic Republic in the struggle against the Israeli regime.

Establishing relations with the Israeli regime is not an incident that the zealous Shiites of Azerbaijan can remain silent about, and the future will prove this.

Now that the establishment of relations between Azerbaijan and the Zionist regime has coincided with the visit by the head of the Israeli regime to Ankara, one can clearly see who is running Azerbaijan behind the curtain of the Baku regime.

Commentary on National Interests, Foreign Policy

NC2607211392 Tehran SALAM in Persian
20 Jul 92 p 16

[Commentary by Tabesh: "Once Again the Iraqi Problem"]

[Text] We have heard that contacts among Iran, Syria, and Saudi Arabia to support the Iraqi rebels have been resumed and that a meeting on this issue will be convened in Riyadh. Even though the sole source of this report is AL-KHALIJ, the absence of a formal reaction of it shows that efforts on the issue are underway. In view of this, some observations should be made and some questions asked so that if the news is confirmed, officials can answer some questions.

1. There is no doubt about the abominable nature of Saddam Husayn's regime, the crimes that it has perpetrated against the Iraqi people, and the very tangible crimes committed against us throughout the eight years of Iraqi aggression against our country. But is there any real difference between the current Egyptian, Saudi, Iraqi, and other regimes that can justify our extreme praise of some and opposition to others?

2. Since its emergence, Islamic Iran has claimed to be the supporter of liberation movements, especially of Islamic movements, and has proven its sincerity both in words and in deeds. There is no doubt that some of the rebel forces in Iraq are being oppressed and that they believe in dear Islam. If support for Iraqi rebels extends to anti-Islamic groups and U.S. and British minions who are supported by the Al Sa'uds, will this not be contrary to our intentions? Did we not say that if we overlook Saddam we should not overlook the Al Sa'uds? How can we even think that a movement from Riyadh will end favorably and benefit the people of Iraq and the Islamic movement? Such wrong conclusions have unfortunately

contaminated the Muslim and revolutionary rebels in Iraq with politicking and unhealthy links with hegemonic powers.

3. If our good neighbor policy is necessary for our reconstruction, we must include all of our neighbors. The country's interests and security concerns dictate that while it is necessary to preserve our principles in our relations with many of the governments in the world, we should also direct our relations with our neighbors away from tension and toward reconstruction. If we must normalize relations with the Saudi regime, there is no need for us not to exploit these relations. Normalizing relations with Iraq without discussing its rule and without setting aside our feelings for Saddam Husayn's regime is also an inevitable necessity in view of our geographic and political conditions.

Commentary Views Turkish Role in Israeli Affairs

NC2707210292 Tehran SALAM in Persian
15 Jul 92 p 12

[Commentary by Sa'id 'Alavi: "Turkey: Zionism's Regional Middleman"]

[Text] The Turkish Government will host Zionist President Haim Herzog today. He is to visit Turkey to participate in ceremonies marking the 500th anniversary of the emigration of Jews to Turkey and to meet with President Turgut Ozal.

This event, which comes after the upgrading of relations between the two countries to the ambassadorial level, is a new step by the Turkish Government to bring to light the many years of covert ties with Tel Aviv. Since the commencement of the talks on Arab-Israeli compromise, which started with the stage setting by the Americans and has continued until now, countries such as Turkey have become extremely active in trying to bring Israel out of its decades of political isolation. Strengthening Tel Aviv-Ankara economic relations and the special role played by Turkey in expanding regional economic cooperation with the participation of Israel are among the responsibilities that the West has assigned the Turkish statesmen. This is especially true when you consider that Israel is in urgent need of cooperation and is suffering from a shortage of water, which is abundant in Turkey and the export of which Ankara is using as the basis for its economic policy.

Moreover, facts show that Turkey, Israel, and the United States adopted similar positions on the current expansion of Islam in the region and the Central Asian republics. The West's concern over the revival of Islamic culture in the Muslim and newly independent Central Asian republics has increased its reliance on Turkey. Establishing diplomatic relations between Israel and the Republic of Azerbaijan, which will apparently be put into effect within the next few days, is the outcome of the suspicious and hostile policy of the Turkish politicians in this republic. These politicians feign good intentions,

friendship, and closeness with the Azerbaijani nation but have actually stabbed it in the back.

Ankara's active and treacherous role in expanding Israeli infiltration in this part of the Islamic world cannot be easily ignored.

Turkey's relations with Israel accord with Ankara's hostile and unprecedented position against Islamic Iran. If nothing is done, this process will spread to the Azerbaijani politicians, who have carelessly placed the reins for decisionmaking for their nation into the hands of the Zionist faction of the Turkish politicians.

Nepal & Bhutan

Ouster of Agriculture, Industry Ministers Demanded

BK2407143392 Hong Kong AFP in English 1400 GMT
24 Jul 92

[Text] Kathmandu, July 24 (AFP)—Opposition parties in Nepal have demanded the resignations of two ministers in Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's government for alleged corruption.

The Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist Leninist (NCP-UML) and the United People's Front (UPF) want Agriculture Minister Sailja Acharya and Minister of State for Industry Ram Krishna Tamrakar to give up their posts following reports of corrupt fiscal mismanagement.

The charges surfaced in Nepal's House of Representatives on Tuesday when ruling party and opposition MPs questioned Acharya on a web of corruption in her ministry and in the ministry of industry.

Acharya has been implicated in a deal to purchase 15,000 tons of urea fertilizer from India through wrongful assessment, bypassing recommendations to buy it from Indonesia or Bangladesh.

Opposition member Jagrit Prasad Bhetuwal told AFP on Friday that the minister had instructed Agriculture Input Corp. directors to abide by her decision to purchase from India, or face being removed from the company.

Acharya's order reportedly overrode contracts negotiated by Nepalese buyers for the company a month earlier.

Tamrakar is also alleged to have been involved in corruption following the payment of 340 million rupees (794,000 dollars) to a Japanese contractor currently building the country's largest cement plant at Udaypur, 280 kilometres (173 miles) southeast of Kathmandu, with a Japanese government loan.

While the two ministers have not yet reacted to the demands, political observers here said the prime minister may use an expected cabinet shuffle in August to remove them.

Acharya 'Forced To Resign'

*BK2607141892 Hong Kong AFP in English
1355 GMT 26 Jul 92*

[Text] Kathmandu, July 26 (AFP)—Nepal's only female cabinet minister has been forced to resign for disciplinary reasons, a highly-placed source in the ruling Nepali Congress party told AFP on Sunday.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala let go of Agriculture Minister Shailaja Acharya, who is also his niece, on the advice of the party's parliamentary committee, the source said.

Acharya has been suspected of corruption in the purchase of 15,000 tonnes of urea (fertilizer) from Bangladesh that should have been imported from Indonesia, as proposed by a local bidder for the supply contract.

Apparently seeking to avoid controversy, Koirala asked members of the Nepali Congress' parliamentary committee to submit their opinions on what action to taken against Acharya.

On Sunday, the prime minister told parliament that Acharya had resigned, saying she had acted against cabinet norms and violated government discipline. Political observers said Acharya's exit might lead to a major cabinet reshuffle in the near future as Koirala attempts to shore up his government's credibility.

New Agriculture Minister Named

*BK2707154892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1000 GMT
27 Jul 92*

[Text] Kathmandu, July 27 (AFP)—Nepali Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has selected Ram Chandra Poudel to take over as minister of agriculture after the previous minister was forced out because of a corruption scandal, state radio reported Monday.

The appointment of Poudel, a former minister of local development, follows the resignation Sunday of Shailaja Acharya, a niece of the prime minister who was forced to step down over allegations of corruption.

Poudel's appointment was officially enacted by King Birendra Monday, the radio said.

Acharya had been accused of corruption in the purchase of 15,000 metric tonnes of urea fertilizer from Bangladesh that should have been imported from Indonesia, as proposed by a local supplier who applied for the contact.

The prime minister said Sunday that Acharya had resigned because she had acted against cabinet norms and had violated government discipline.

Fertilizer Deal 'Kickbacks' Alleged

*BK2807115892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT
28 Jul 92*

[Text] Kathmandu, July 28 (AFP)—A Nepalese opposition call for the formation of an all-party commission into allegations of bribe taking in connection with fertilizer sales has been rejected, a parliamentary official said Tuesday.

The government left the door open to such an enquiry, however, although its 107 votes easily defeated the opposition's 75 in the vote late Monday night, the official added.

Opposition figures have charged that government officials—including the country's now-resigned agriculture minister, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's niece—accepted kickbacks from the manufacturers of urea fertilizer. The accusation was unjust, Koirala told AFP.

"This irresponsible statement has greatly embarrassed me and has given the opposition a good opportunity to heckle me," he said.

In parliament, Minister for Local Development and Agriculture Ram Chandra Paudyal refuted the allegations of "a web of corruption."

"The government is not in favour of covering up the cases of corruption and commissionism—it is rather firm in its commitment to do away with such menaces," he said, adding that the government was open to the idea of an all-party investigation. "But under the present circumstances, we are not in a position to accept the proposal of the opposition as the motion was brought to embarrass the government and unfairly accuse the government," Paudyal said.

Japan To Give \$7.5 Million for Hydroelectric Plant

*OW1607111592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0829 GMT
16 Jul 92*

[Text] Kathmandu, July 16 KYODO—Japan will give Nepal a 7.5 million dollar grant to extend and reinforce a hydroelectric power distribution system in Kathmandu valley.

The two governments signed notes here on the grant Thursday.

The expansion is to be carried out under a plan prepared with Japanese technical assistance, according to the Nepalese Finance Ministry.

Japanese Embassy Charge d'Affaires Masao Ishikawa said Japan has given Nepal 42 million dollars to date for hydroelectric power generation and distribution.

He said Japan appreciates Nepalese efforts to introduce a market-oriented economy.

Pakistan

Foreign Office Asks Russia About Arms Sales

*BK2907094592 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
29 Jul 92 pp 1, 5*

[Excerpts] Islamabad—The Foreign Office on Tuesday asked the Russian Embassy to confirm if Moscow was prepared to sell armaments to Pakistan, reliable sources revealed.

The inquiry emerged after two days of conferral between GHQ Rawalpindi, the Defence Production Division and the Foreign Office on four separate arms deals which had been offered to the Pakistan government from private Russian parties.

The Foreign Office wanted to know whether any of the offers had the backing of the Yeltsin administration. These offers apparently include the sale of MiG-29 fighters, Su-27 fighter-bombers, T-72-M1 tanks and 130mm artillery guns. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Russians are in danger of being upstaged by former ally Poland. A delegation from the Polish state company Bunar Labedy is currently in Rawalpindi talking about the sale of 300 T-72-M1 tanks. This deal was initiated by the Polish deputy prime minister during his visit to Pakistan in June.

The deal, worth approximately US\$ 400 million, provides for payment largely on barter basis, and includes tanks, ammunition, transfer of technology for both, plus plant and also offered to supply Russian fighters, which it could buy from Moscow at cheaper rates than Pakistan could.

Defense Minister Discusses Role of Army

*BK2807112992 Islamabad THE NATION
in English 28 Jul 92 pp 1, 14*

[Text] Lahore—Defence Minister Ghouse Ali Shah has said that the armed forces role should be restricted to defending the country's frontiers and aiding the civilian Government when needed.

In a recent interview to the FAMILY MAGAZINE, the Defence Minister maintained that owing to the poverty in Pakistan and India, both the countries are neither in a position to fight a war nor they should go for one. He said Pakistan is very much in favour of maintaining friendly relations between the two countries.

He asserted that both the countries should concentrate on creating economic stability instead of thinking of a war. Referring to the situation in Held Kashmir, he said the example of Eastern Europe and Soviet Union should be kept in mind as no power can suppress peoples aspirations. Soon the people of the Held Kashmir would succeed in their struggle for liberation and accession to Pakistan.

Referring to Pakistan's nuclear programme, the Minister said the project is for peaceful purposes while India's aggressive designs became evident by nuclear explosion in 1974. Pakistan is very careful in the field, he added. However, he said that there would not be any compromise on the country's nuclear programme.

The US friendship with India is a new phenomenon and soon the USA would realise how trustworthy India was, he added. He said the agreement for the supply for F-16 fighter planes was a commercial proposition and Pakistan was trying to save it from the application of Pressler Amendment. He maintained that for defence purposes, negotiation with China and Russia were under way.

He said testing of Agni Missile has created apprehensions in Pakistan that wherever such weapons would be kept, neighbouring countries would feel threatened. He said that there is enough evidence of Indian sponsored terrorists presence in Sindh and Indian interference in Pakistan's affairs. The evidences have been presented to the Indian Government, he added.

He said cutting down of defence expenditure can be a welcome step but cannot be taken unilaterally. He said Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence and would not be a part of any anti India bloc.

He denied his involvement in patronising ethnic organisation during his tenure as Sindh Chief Minister. He claimed that during his tenure, the Sindh situation had improved to some extent.

He said before the launching of Sindh Operation, the Ministers from Sindh were consulted and taken into confidence by the Prime Minister. They had agreed on the inevitability of the operation.

He said during his tenure as Defence Minister, Sindhis would be given a proper representation in the Armed Forces for which the COAS [Chief of Army Staff] had issued directions.

He said despite being a Sindhi, he had not ignored his constituency which was evident from making Narowal a district. "I am spending Rs [Rupees] 10.4 million from Tameer-e-Watan Programme on my constituency", he added.

Muslim League Urges Army To Dismiss Government

*BK2807114392 Karachi DAWN in English
28 Jul 92 p 7*

[Text] Lahore, July 27—Malik Mohammad Qasim, chief of his own faction of the Pakistan Muslim League [PML], called upon the armed forces here on Monday to press the President to dismiss the government, and acquire powers under the Article 245 to be able to take necessary steps to rectify the situation "that has gone out of the control of the government".

Speaking at a news conference, he said the armed forces were the only institution which could eradicate the evils and set the country on the right path.

"I am not asking the armed forces to take over", the PML President said, adding "I do not know of any other method which could set the things right".

Malik Qasim, who is also a leader of the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance], said that if the President failed in discharging his obligations with respect to the situation and dismissing the government and allowing powers to the armed forces under Article 245, the forces should ask him to quit, and appoint the Chairman of Senate or the NA [National Assembly] Speaker as the acting president to run the country under the Constitution.

"If the armed forces could intervene illegally in the past and install people like Gen Yahya Khan and Gen Ziaul Haq why they could not use their influence now when every other method had failed to rectify the situation?" he asked.

When a reporter asked how it would be justified for him to demand powers for the armed forces under Article 245 while the same had been denied by the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Government of which he was an adviser on the ground that it would lead to suspension of the fundamental rights, Qasim said: "Fundamental rights are very important but not more than the country itself".

The PML President was of the view that it was wrong to put the entire responsibility of country's problems on the politicians. Since the armed forces had been ruling the country for most of the time the responsibility of the situation also lay on their shoulders, he added.

Editorial Urges Restraint on Kashmir Issue

BK2707103392 Peshawar *THE FRONTIER POST*
in English 27 Jul 92 p 10

[Editorial: "The Abida Hussain Affair"]

[Text] Passions on Kashmir have been aroused once again after a quarrel between an officer employed by Islamabad to write about Kashmir and our ambassador to Washington. Air Commodore (Retd) [retired] Ayaz Ahmad Khan, not known for any temperate writings on Kashmir, apparently ignored the diplomacy being applied to the problem in Washington by Ambassador Syeda Abida Hussain. The quarrel spilled over first among the Pakistanis in the US, whom the ambassador has somehow offended, and then in Pakistan, where the hype on Kashmir is touching dizzy heights, prompting some circles within IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] and the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] to call for her recall. People simply forgot that Washington is Syeda Abida Hussain's jurisdiction and any government employee, representing Pakistan there, has to take her advice.

General (Retd) Alam Jan Mahsud has revealed that he opposed former COAS [Chief of Army Staff] General

Mirza Aslam Beg's policy of putting the politicians under pressure by escalating warlike rhetoric on Kashmir. Having ambushed the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] with Kashmir, the IJI has now to cope with a world opinion totally out of kilter with the chest-beating calls to arms that it simply cannot take up given the pathetic state of the economy and its weakening hold over government. Retired generals are recommending that Pakistan should pick up the heavy pricetag for increased warlike preparedness; some are asserting that the people of Pakistan want honour more than they want bread. Extremist organisations in Pakistan dominate the dialogue on Kashmir, scaring away those who would recommend peaceful channels. The official line on the peaceful resolution is weak and lacking in credibility because of the warpaint politicians smear their faces with to exploit public passions and score points against their opponents. [sentence as published] The real issue is that Pakistan is rapidly becoming economically unviable (it has to import food and its cotton hardly sells), and wars don't bestow honour when people agitate against hunger. The people of the United States, after winning against communism and winning the Gulf war, feel more the dishonour of a declining national economy than the trophies of Soviet collapse. At a point when the economy demands more expert attention, opinion-makers, civilian and ex-army, are looking for a national cause to go to war. If Syeda Abida Hussain is recalled simply, because the rhetoric at home has become intolerably hot, it would negate diplomacy and some of its basic rules.

49 Africans Arrested on Drug Charges Since Dec

BK2907093992 Islamabad *THE NATION*
in English 29 Jul 92 p 3

[Text] Islamabad—On the directives of the Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Rana Chander Singh, Pakistan Narcotics Control Board (PNCB) has launched an extensive campaign against the foreigners involved in drug trafficking.

A spokesman of the PCNB said here on Monday that during the last seven months 49 African drug smugglers had so far been arrested through this campaign.

The spokesman said this campaign, launched since December 1991, had not only revealed the ingenious techniques of concealing drugs in the body cavities, but in some cases, the use of fake passports by the foreigners also indicated their close contacts with some foreign intelligence agencies. Most of the African nationals, arrested in connection with drug trafficking were between the ages of 25 to 35 years, he added.

He said that a large number of them were employed on menial petty jobs in their countries of origin. Interrogation reports showed that most of the accused were prompted to undertake their journeys on the instance of the agents of the drug barons. This aspect needs further probing into the fact that a menial worker in those

countries cannot think of undertaking such distance journeys without some expert help and financial aid, he maintained.

The spokesman said that some of the Africans accused were found to be in possession of brochures of Pakistani machinery, which provide enough space for concealing heroin and other contrabands. An attempt to smuggle heroin concealed in machinery items from Islamabad was recently detected at Heathrow Airport.

The machinery was booked for Lagos by a Nigerian and Ghanaian national, he added.

ECO Countries to Cooperate in Telecommunications

BK2707150892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey constituting the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, have agreed to cooperate in the fields of telecommunications, industry, technical training, and research. The agreement came in a meeting between the minister of state for communications, Mr. Mohammad Azam Khan Hoti, and delegates of the ECO in Islamabad today. The member countries emphasized the need for working jointly in telecommunication sector by pooling up their resources to acquire self-reliance in this field. Mr. Mohammad Azam Khan Hoti said that with the induction of five Central Asian Muslim states to the organization, it will emerge as a strong regional forum and play a vital role in the socio-economic development of the region.